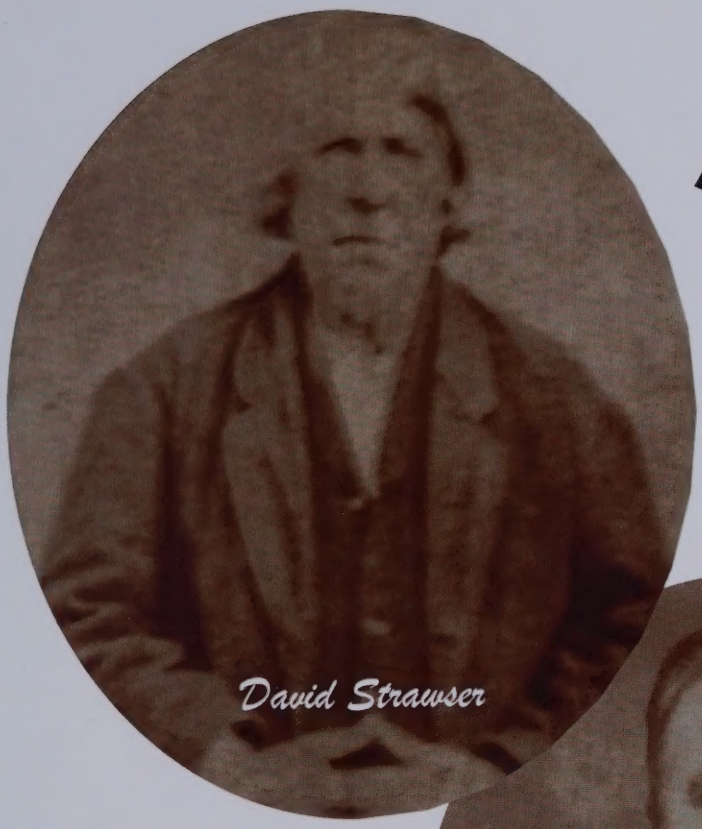
The Strawser Family Story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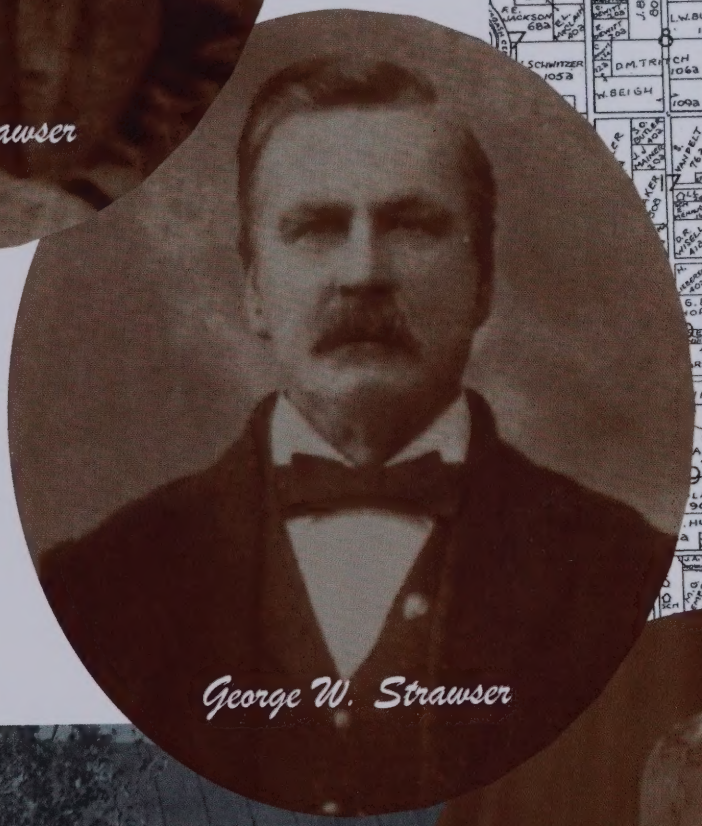
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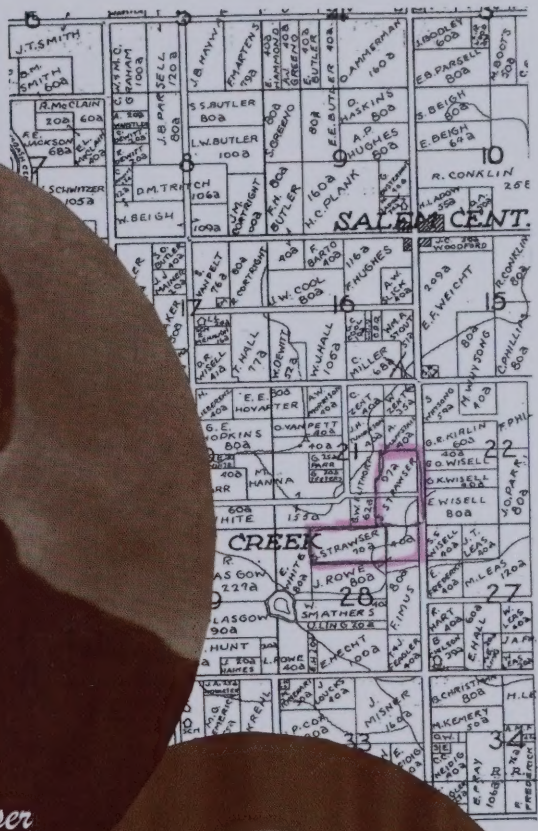
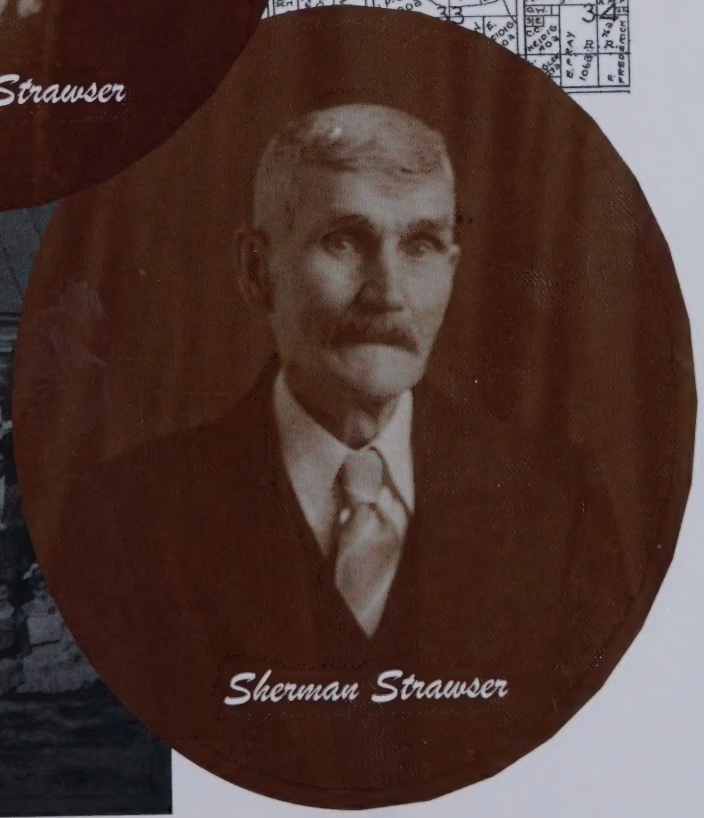


Authors

D. Scott Strawser

Cheryl Kirkpatrick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MAP OF SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP

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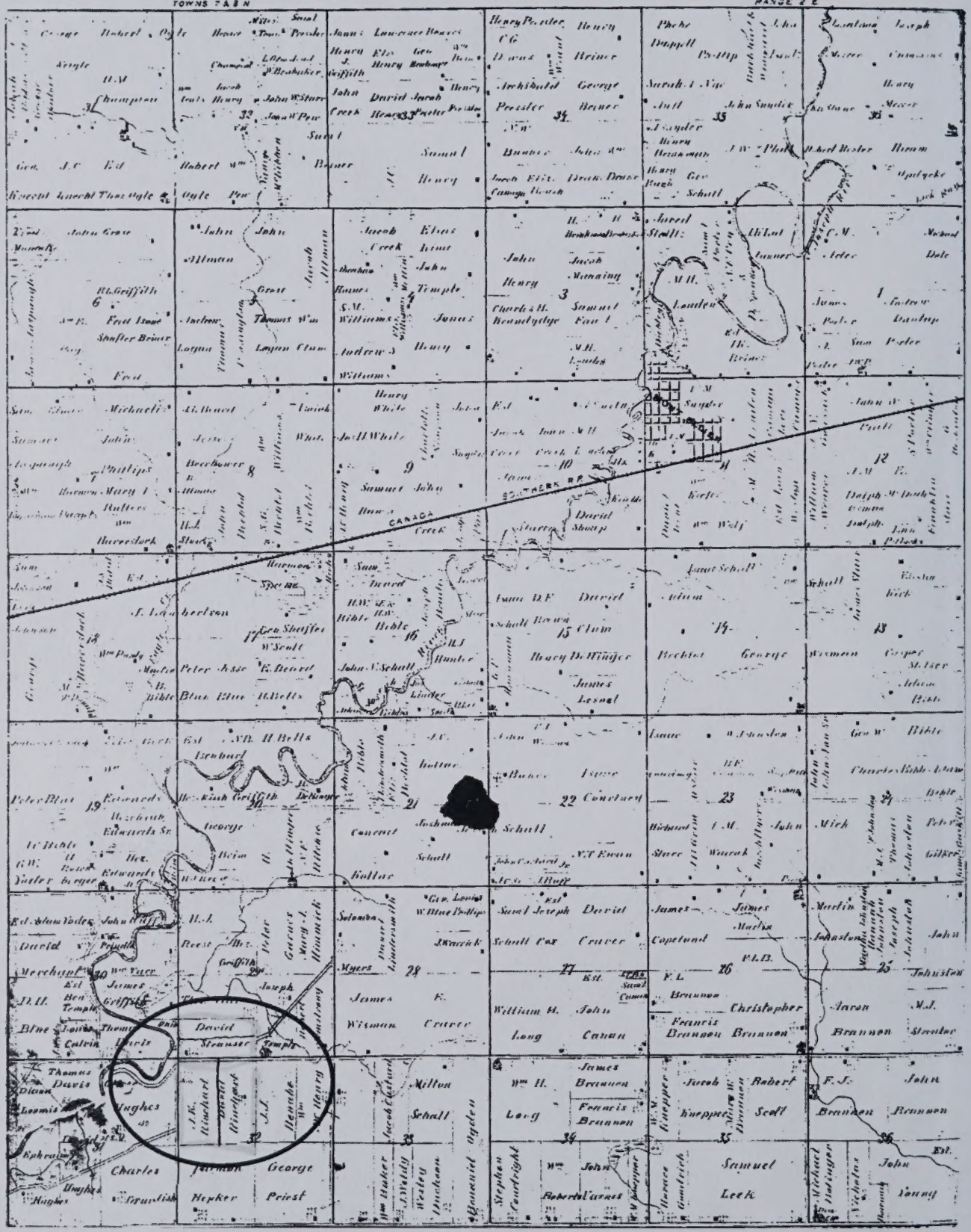
CANADA
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Canada Creek
Spruce Creek
Beaver Creek
Schultz
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FAMILY
HISTORY
STRAWSER

C18

George's
Property

1898

MAP OF

SALEM

NUMBER NINE

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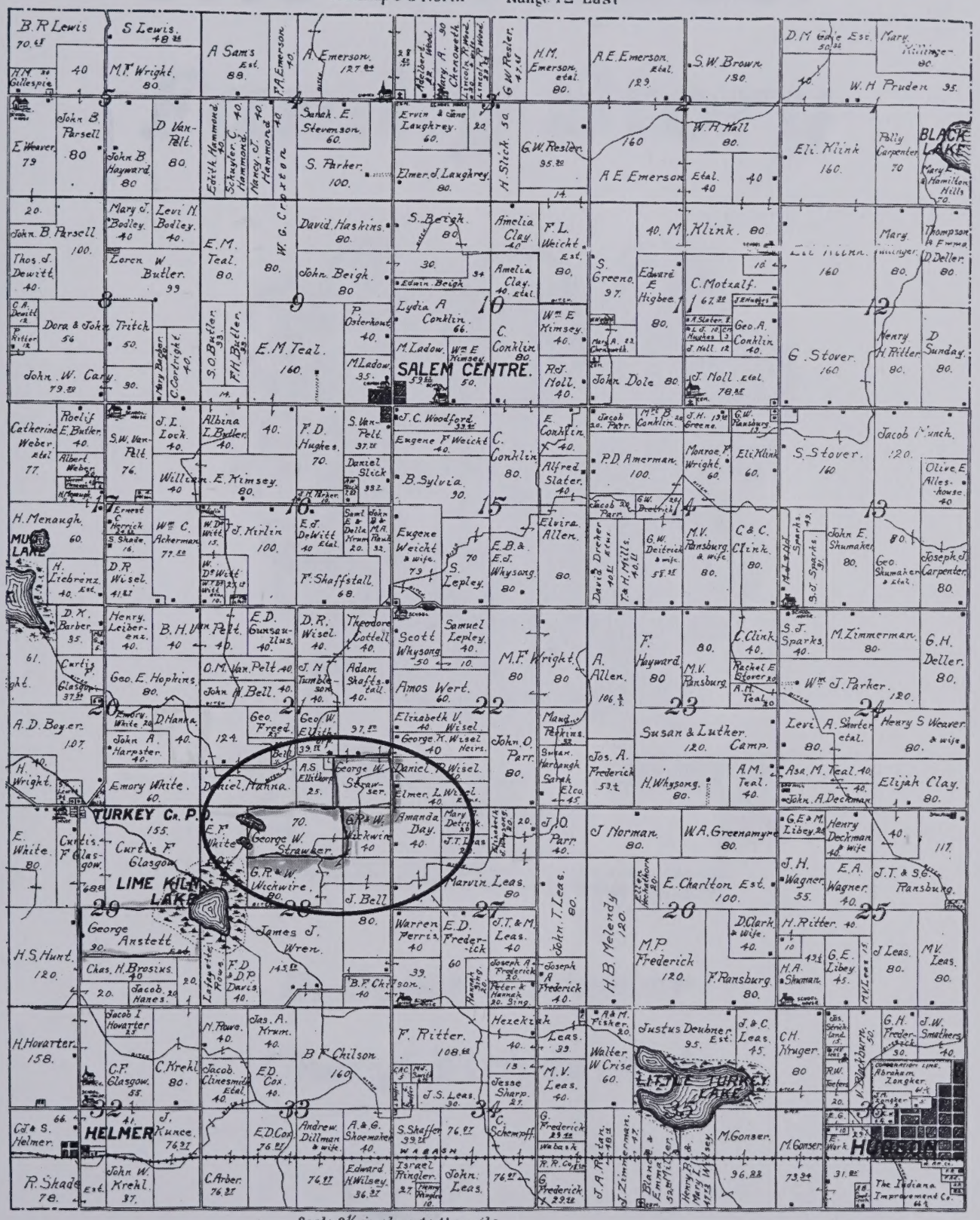

Scale 2½ inches to the mile.

The Strawser Family Story

D. Scott Strawser

Cheryl Kirkpatrick

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A Note from the Authors

Scott Strawser

One morning, Scott was surfing the internet. Every now and then he would look for information that would relate to his great, great grandfather, George Strawser. On this particular morning he stumbled across a post in a genealogy chat room asking for anyone who had information on George W. Strawser. Scott was surprised and quickly emailed the person who had posted, Cheryl Kirkpatrick. It turns out Cheryl was the cousin of his father, Don Strawser. They immediately made plans to meet. From there they have had many enjoyable days, afternoons and some quick trips unearthing long lost relatives, photos and more. This is a compilation of their hard work and time together.

Cheryl Kirkpatrick

My name is Cheryl Kirkpatrick. I am the 3rd great granddaughter of David and Rachel Strawser. When I was in my teens I was always taking pictures of the older people. It was like I wanted to save them so when I got older I could see them always. Little did I know back then it would lead me to doing all this research. I have only had a computer for six years, so in that time I have found much more information to go with my pictures. This year I finally got to meet and know many of my mother's cousins and they are such wonderful people. I have acquired many more pictures through them. Then one day last summer a guy named Scott Strawser contacted me on e-mail wanting to get together to visit and view each other's information. He brought along his father, Don Strawser, and through this a most wonderful friendship has been born. So we decided to put all of our information together in hopes that you will enjoy reading it as much as we did putting this together.

The Genealogy

The First Generation – David Strawser

David Strawser

(b. October 10, 1804 in Coleraine, Ross County, Ohio)

Married Rachel Smith on May 9, 1833 in Ross County, Ohio

b. February 16, 1813 in Pennsylvania
d. October 5, 1898 in Montpelier, Williams County, Ohio

David and Rachel (Smith) Strawser

Had nine children:

1. George W. – b. May 27, 1834
2. Mary – b. November 17, 1835
3. John – b. September 21, 1839
4. Philip – b. July 14, 1841
5. David – b. March 27, 1844
6. William – b. December 5, 1848
7. Anna Catherine – b. July 8, 1850
8. Albert Franklin – b. June 4, 1854
9. Rufus – b. July 16, 1856

- Moved from Ross County to Defiance County, Ohio in 1843
- Moved to Scott Road, near Bryan, Ohio in 1866
- David was a member of the Masons in Williams County, Ohio
- David was once quoted as "seeing Indians" at the time of moving to Williams County, Ohio
- David was a great hunter and all of his boys followed in his footsteps.
- Was known for keeping a well-kept house that was considered prosperous
- The family grew all of their crops, with all those boys there was plenty of help
- The children's births are documented on a page of a Strawser Bible and notarized by the Williams County, Ohio Courthouse

A photo of the Strawser Farm about 1866. *Pictured from left to right are: George W. holding Sherman, Rhoda, Margaret-Agnes, Phillip, John, Rachel, David Sr., Albert Higbea, Albert Franklin, Rufus, Anna Catherine, William*

David died on August 10, 1884 in Superior Twp., Williams, Ohio

- Both David and Rachel are buried in Brown Cemetery in Williams County, Ohio

Having emigrated from a small town south of Munich, Germany, the Strawser Family first settled in Pennsylvania. They chose Pennsylvania for its rich soil, at that time known to be the richest in United States, and for the climate and scenery being so similar to their homeland of Germany. From there we do not have much information until we find the family moved to Ohio and David Strawser was born. This is where we will start our story.

David Strawser was born in Ross County, Ohio in the early 1800s. He married Rachel Smith on May 9, 1833 in Ross County, Ohio. Rachel was born in Pennsylvania, February 16, 1813 and died in Montpelier, Williams County, Ohio on October 5, 1898. David died in Superior Township, Williams County, Ohio on August 10, 1884. They are both buried in the Brown Cemetery in Williams County, Ohio.

David and Rachel moved from Ross County, Ohio in 1843 to Defiance County, Ohio then to finally to settle in Williams County, Ohio in 1866 on Scott Road, near Bryan. David was a member of the Mason's of Williams County, Ohio.

David recollects seeing Indians at that time of moving into Williams County. He was a great hunter and his many boys followed in his footsteps. His house reflected their prosperous lifestyle and was well taken care of. They grew all their crops, which having a large family with many boys, was certainly a great help.

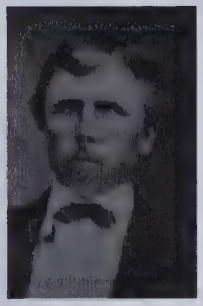
Many family members over the years have fond memories of life on the Strawser Farm on Scott Road.

Children of David & Rachel Strawser

George

John

Phillip


William

Anna

Albert

Rufus

The Second Generation

The Children of David Strawser

1. George W. Strawser

(b. May 27, 1834 in Ross County, Ohio)

George and Rhoda Rose (Higbea) Strawser

Married Rhoda Jane Rose Higbea on February 4, 1864 in Defiance, Defiance County, Ohio

b. July 31, 1834 in Basil, Fairfield County, Ohio
d. January 3, 1908 in Steuben County, Indiana

Had five children:

1. William Tecumseh Sherman - b. November 4, 1864
2. Amanda - b. September 10, 1866
3. George David - b. June 22, 1868
4. Mary Catherine - b. July 28, 1871
5. John Wesley - b. July 1, 1873

Married Jane Chrisman on July 28, 1908 in Defiance, Ohio

b. March 11, 1842 in Tuscarawas, Ohio
d. November 7, 1926 in Williams, Ohio

- Enlisted into the Civil War as a private on August 15, 1861
- Reported for duty with Company D of the 38th Ohio Infantry on September 24, 1861
- Discharged in June 29, 1865 because of severe wounds received in battle
- When home on furlough, married Rhoda after friend and marching companion, William Higbea, died during battle in the Civil War. Raised Albert Higbea, son of William and Rhoda as his own
    - Stepson Albert Higbea was born on December 4, 1860 in Napoleon, Henry County, Ohio. He died on May 3, 1948 in Grand Traverse, Michigan. He married Nellie May Lingle and had two daughters (Mary Catherine and Effie Lucinda). He later married Sarah Ann Anstett on December 24, 1895 in DeKalb County, Indiana. They had five children (Jay, Sherman, William, Rhoda, and Eva)
- Moved to Steuben County, Indiana because Rhoda's family had settled there
- George and Rhoda ran a large, prosperous farm that they built together
- George and his brothers and sisters were a musical family. Growing up, the Strawsers

Strawser Farm in Steuben County

would hold dances once a month for those interested in coming. Many of the family pictures show them holding their instruments
- Second marriage was to Jane Chrisman. She was his high school sweetheart and she took care of him in their final years together
- All of George and Rhoda's children are buried in Circle Cemetery, Hudson, Steuben County, Indiana

Jane (Chrisman) Strawser

George died on May 26, 1912 in Salem Center, Steuben County, Indiana
- George is buried in Circle Center Cemetery in Hudson, Indiana

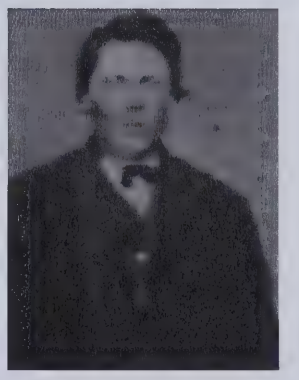
2. Mary Strawser

(b. November 17, 1835)

Mary died during infancy

3. John Strawser

(b. September 21, 1839 in Ross County, Ohio)



John Strawser

Married Sophia C. Kline on October 8, 1865 in Ross County, Ohio

b. 1851 in New York, d. 1934 in Bryan, Ohio

Had one child:

1. Cora Etta – b. June 5, 1873 in Williams County, Ohio

- Served in the Civil War in Company D along with his brother, George
- He enlisted on August 15, 1861 and was discharged on September 13, 1864
- Married Sophia when he returned home from the war
- Had two children, but one died in infancy
- Shared the one home in Williams County, Ohio the entire time they were together
- The Bryan Times did a write up on John's time in the war, taking quotes from his diaries for the story

John died December 16, 1920 in Tiffin Twp., Williams County, Ohio
- John and Sophia are buried in Fountain Grove Cemetery in Bryan, Ohio

4. Phillip Strawser

(b. July 14, 1841 in Ross, Ohio)

Phillip and Susannah (Dean) Strawser

Married Susannah Dean on August 17, 1862 in Defiance, Ohio

b. October 1, 1844 in Crawford, Ohio
d. February 4, 1922 in Montpelier, Ohio

Had two children:

1. Margaret Agnes – b. August 1868 in Defiance, Ohio
2. Clara Marrila – b. February 5, 1875

- Was a member of the Masonic Order and the Hiram Louden Post
- Also fought in the Civil War along with his brothers
- Was a private in the 111th Ohio Volunteer Infantry
  - *111th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 1050 men, John R. Bond colonel, mustered in September 5-6, 1862; took the field in Kentucky, Buell's command, Thirty Eighth Brigade, Twelfth Division, for the rest of 1862; in May, 1863, assigned to Second Brigade, Second Division, Twenty Third Army Corps; joined in the pursuit of Morgan into Indiana, and served the year out in Kentucky and Tennessee, suffering in siege of Knoxville; in 1864 a part of the left wing of Sherman's great army in the marches and campaign in Georgia until November; in pursuit of Hood in November and December through Tennessee; in February, 1865, rejoined Sherman's forces, in North Carolina; mustered out at Salisbury, North Carolina, June 27, 1865, 401 men, Major Thomas C. Norris commanding*
- When returned from the war, turned to farming as his final career
- Many of Phillip's descendants are buried in Riverside Cemetery

Phillip died March 10, 1918 in Superior Twp., Williams County, Ohio

- Phillip and his family are buried in Riverside Cemetery, Montpelier, Ohio

5. David Strawser

(b. March 27, 1844 in Ross, Ohio)

Never married

- Enlisted in the war in 1865, the last of the brothers
- Fought with Company A of the 188th Ohio Infantry
  - *The 188th Ohio Infantry was organized at Camp Chase in Columbus, Ohio and mustered in for one year service on March 4, 1865 under the command of Colonel Jacob E. Taylor. The regiment left Ohio for Nashville, Tennessee, March 4. It was attached to 1st Brigade, Defenses Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad, Department of the Cumberland, to April 1865. 1st Brigade, 1st Sub-District, District of Middle Tennessee, to September 1865. Performed provost duty at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, until May 1865. At Tullahoma, Tennessee, until July, and at Nashville, Tennessee, until September 1865. The 188th Ohio Infantry mustered out of service September 21, 1865 at Nashville, Tennessee. The regiment lost a total of 45 enlisted men during service, all due to disease.*

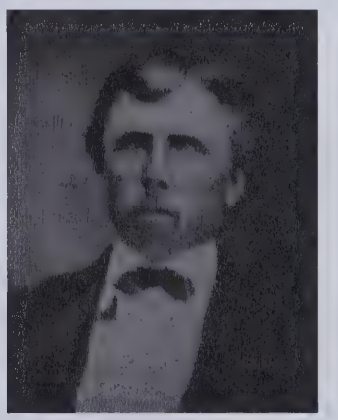
- Contracted measles during the war
- Died at Camp Chase, in Columbus, Ohio while still on active duty
  - *Camp Chase was a Civil War camp established in May 1861, on land leased by the U.S. Government. It served as a replacement for the much smaller Camp Jackson. The main entrance was on the National Road 4 miles (6.4 km) west of Downtown Columbus, Ohio. Named for former Ohio Governor and Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase, it was a training camp for Ohio volunteer army soldiers, a parole camp, a muster outpost, and a prisoner-of-war camp. The nearby Camp Thomas served as a similar base for the Regular Army.*

David died March 27, 1865 in Columbus, Ohio

- David is buried in Green Lawn Cemetery, Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio

6. William Allen Strawser

(b. December 5, 1848 in Defiance, Ohio)



William Allen Strawser

Married Rosanna Gilbert on October 5, 1870 in Williams, Ohio

b. July 30, 1851 in Williams, Ohio
d. September 13, 1875 in Williams, Ohio

Had three children:

1. Clarence Gilbert – b. August 29, 1871 in Defiance, Ohio
2. Anna Florida - b. October 8, 1873 in Defiance, Ohio
3. William Eugene – b. August 13, 1875 in Bryan, Ohio

Married Florilla Lily Lumas on April 8, 1879 in Williams County, Ohio

b. 1856 in Ohio
d. January 22, 1884 in Williams County, Ohio

Had one child:

4. Margaret Southard

Married Lettie Brinker on October 23, 1904

b. 1863 in Iowa

William died December 26, 1912 in Williams County, Ohio

- William and Rosanna are buried in Lick Creek Cemetery, Williams County, Ohio

7. Anna Catherine Strawser

(b. July 8, 1850 in Defiance, Ohio)

Anna Catherine (Strawser) Isenhart

Married David W. Isenhart on March 9, 1875 in Williams, Ohio

b. September 27, 1846 in Tiffin, Ohio
d. January 1, 1927 in Montpelier, Ohio

Had three children:

1. David Ambrose Isenhart – b. January 8, 1876
2. Mary Della Isenhart – b. November 26, 1877
3. Sylvestor Smith Isenhart – b. October 14, 1880

Anna Catherine died February 22, 1936 in Montpelier, Ohio

- Anna Catherine is buried in Riverside Cemetery, Montpelier, Ohio

8. Albert Franklin Strawser

(b. June 4, 1854 in Defiance, Defiance County, Ohio)

Albert Franklin Strawser

Married Sarah Marilla Hissong on August 15, 1876

b. August 7, 1855
d. September 27, 1934

Had eleven children:

1. Wesley C. – b. 1878
2. Nelson Smith – b. December 5, 1878
3. David S. – b. April 18, 1880
4. Olisto – b. February 2, 1883
5. Frances Claire – b. April 12, 1884
6. James Glenn – b. December 12, 1886
7. Elden – b. October 20, 1887
8. Selden – b. October 28, 1888
9. Altini – b. February 14, 1890
10. Altina Belle – b. March 10, 1891
11. Kyncelle Corwin Kyle – b. July 21, 1892

- Had 11 children with Sarah, but lost three children early in their lives

Married Eliza Goble on June 10, 1910

- Was a member of the Knights of Pythias
- Was a plasterer by trade

Married Alice B. Murr on March 22, 1911 in Williams County, Ohio

b. 1856 in Ohio

Albert died May 28, 1925 in Hudson, Indiana

- Albert is buried in Edon Cemetery, Edon, Ohio

9. Rufus Strawser

(b. July 6, 1856 in Washington Twp., Williams, Ohio)

Rufus Strawser

Married Estella Squires in January 1, 1882 in Williams, Ohio

b. February 1, 1858 in Montpelier, Ohio
d. September 1, 1945 in Bridgewater, Ohio

Had three children:

1. Jesse J. – b. February 8, 1883
2. Charles W. – b. January 27, 1888
3. Orville George – b. May 18, 1894

- Was a farmer like most of his family
- Was greatly respected in his community for his patriotism, honesty and public word
- Was a helpful neighbor to all, always prepared to help those in distress

Rufus died on July 27, 1911 in Bridgewater Twp., Williams, Ohio

- Rufus is buried in Cogswell Cemetery, Bridgewater Twp., Williams, Ohio

A Strawser Family Reunion in 1908 at the David Strawser farm on Scott Road, Bryan, Ohio. Strawser brothers and sister are seated in center with family surrounding them.

Left to right in second row: 1) George W. 2) John 3) Philip 4) William 5) Anna Catherine 6) Albert Franklin 7) Rufus (David – died in Civil War and Mary died in infancy)

The Third Generation

The Children of George W. Strawser

10. William Tecumseh Sherman Strawser

(b. November 8, 1864 in Defiance, Ohio)

Sherman and Della (Anstett) Strawser

Married Della May Anstett on December 25, 1890 in Salem Center, Indiana

b. January 23, 1870 in DeKalb County, Indiana
d. June 12, 1949 in Salem Center, Indiana

Had seven children:

1. Earl George – b. March 31, 1892
2. Verna – b. December 28, 1893
3. Verda – b. December 29, 1894
4. Carl – b. June 22, 1897
5. Wayne – b. May 11, 1901
6. Wade – b. November 17, 1902
7. Ruby D. – b. November 15, 1906

- Best known as Sherman
- Spent most of their lives on the farm

Sherman died October 23, 1946 in Salem Center, Indiana

- Sherman is buried in Circle Cemetery, Hudson, Indiana

Front Row, L-R: Sherman, Della, Carl, Wayne, Wade, Ruby Back Row, L-R: Earl George, Verda, Verna

At a young age, Grandpa Sherman was in and around farming. Farming was a way of life that was taught early on so that by the time the child was of age, they could handle much of the duties it involved. Many of the equipment George used was still in use later on down the line as the farm was passed on to the next generation.

Grandpa Sherman knew how hard a life of farming was and taught him many things of how to cope with hard times due to weather, bad crops or poor harvests. Farming in the 1800s was very primitive as horses and mules were the greatest source of power for the wagons, plows, and other farming equipment. Animals, such as foxes and coyotes were as much a pest as bugs to crops.

Grandpa Sherman was a tall, weathered man by the elements but reserved and quiet who never spoke much.

- Wore handmade boots

Sherman with gun collection started by his father, George

- Always had a plug of chewing tobacco
- Played the violin
- Had a still on his farm to make hard apple cider

In 1928, Grandpa Sherman turns over the farm to his 5th son, Wayne. Sherman and Della retired to a house in Helmer, IN to pursue other interests such as boat building. Sherman would occasionally return to the farm to help with fence mending other simple duties that were needed around the farm.

11. Amanda Jane Strawser

(b. September 10, 1866 in Defiance, Ohio)

Married John Klein on February 22, 1891 in Ohio

Had no children

Amanda died on June 28, 1931 in Garrett, DeKalb County, Indiana

- Amanda is buried in Circle Cemetery, Hudson, Indiana

Amanda Jane (Strawser) Klein

12. George David Strawser

(b. June 22, 1868 in Defiance, Ohio)

Married Minnie Anne Anstett in 1892 in Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana

b. November 29, 1871 in DeKalb County, Indiana
d. July 11, 1941 in Salem Twp., Steuben County, Indiana

George David Strawser

Had six children:

1. Loie – b. October 25, 1893
2. Worthy A. – b. February 19, 1897
3. Loyal Arthur – b. January 11, 1900
4. Paul A. – b. January 9, 1902
5. David Emil - b. April 7, 1906
6. Dorothy Irene – b. December 22, 1907

- George had a blacksmith shop in Helmer. As automobiles became more common in the community thereby cutting down on the horse shoeing business, George installed a gasoline (glass bowl type) dispensing pump. He advertised "FREE AIR" for the pneumatic tires on the autos. He provided this by use of a manually operated ventricular cylinder air pump. He also had a rear seat from a wrecked auto placed as a "loafers bench" located north of the large door opening to the Blacksmith shop.
- George and Minnie owned a 2 story frame dwelling

George David died November 23, 1946 in Fort Wayne, Indiana

- George David is buried in Circle Cemetery, Hudson, Indiana

13. Mary Catherine Strawser

(b. July 28, 1871 in Defiance, Ohio)

Henry and Mary Catherine (Strawser) Geddis

Married Henry Geddis on November 24, 1906 in Steuben County, Indiana

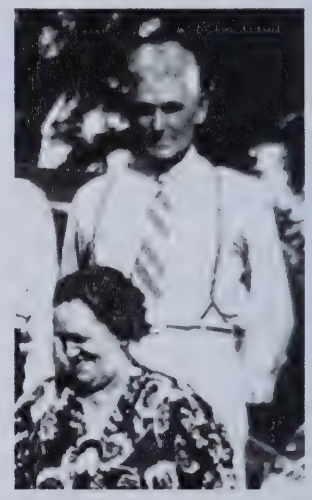
They had no children

Mary Catherine died on December 20, 1920 in Steuben County, Indiana

- Mary is buried in Circle Cemetery, Hudson, Indiana

14. John Wesley Strawser

(b. July 1, 1873 in Defiance, Ohio)



John and Nellie (Ringler) Strawser

Married Nellie May Ringler

b. February 22, 1881 in Steuben, Indiana
d. April 14, 1964 in Steuben, Indiana

Had two children:

1. Beatrice
2. Rhoda

John died May 28, 1951 in Waterloo, DeKalb County, Indiana

- John is buried in Circle Cemetery, Hudson, Indiana

The Children of John Strawser

15. Cora Etta Strawser

(b. in 1873 in Williams County, Ohio)

Cora Etta (Strawser) and Daniel Partee

Married Daniel Edgar Partee in March 1896 in Defiance County, Ohio

b. 1873
d. 1935 in Bryan, Ohio

Had two children:

1. Wayne Partee
2. Lowell Partee

Cora Etta died November 16, 1934 in Richland Twp., Defiance, Ohio

- Cora Etta is buried in Fountain Grove Cemetery, Bryan, Ohio

The Children of Phillip Strawser

16. Margaret Agnes Strawser

(b. 1868 in Defiance County, Ohio)

Margaret Agnes died February 25, 1891 in Defiance County, Ohio

17. Clara Marrila Strawser

(b. February 5, 1875 in Defiance, Ohio)

Married Edward Samuel Butler on June 3, 1897 in Williams, Ohio
b. March 5, 1865 in Pittsfield, Berkshire, Maine
d. September 9, 1934 in Williams, Ohio

Had two children:
1. Carelton Edward Butler – b. January 21, 1899
2. Margaret Butler

Clara Marrila died in 1975 in Williams, Ohio
- Clara Marrila is buried in Riverside Cemetery, Montpelier, Ohio

The Children of William Allen Strawser

18. Clarence Gilbert Strawser

(b. August 29, 1871 in Defiance, Ohio

Married Sarah Elizabeth

Clarence died in 1921 in Ohio
- Clarence is buried in Brown Cemetery, Bryan, Ohio

19. Anna Florida Strawser

(b. October 8, 1871 in Defiance, Ohio)

Married Samuel L. Grundish
b. October 19, 1871 in Ohio
d. 1951 in Michigan

Had two children:
1. Florence A.
2. Herbert L.

Anna died in 1931 in Michigan
- Anna is buried in Sunset View Cemetery, Jonesville, Michigan

20. William Eugene Strawser

(b. August 13, 1875 in Center Twp., Williams, Ohio)

Married Ida Catherine Lanius

b. September 10, 1875 in Ohio

d. January 29, 1957 in Defiance, Ohio

Had one child:

1. Dale – b. 1900

William died on November 7, 1950 in Bryan, Ohio

- William is buried in West Buffalo Cemetery, Edon, Ohio

The Children of Anna Catherine (Strawser) Isenhart

21. David Ambrose Isenhart

(b. January 8, 1876 in Williams, Ohio)

Married Lula E. Custer in 1899 in Williams, Ohio

b. 1876 in Williams, Ohio

d. 1948 in Superior Twp., Williams, Ohio

Had one child:

1. Seldon Isenhart – b. May 3, 1906

David died on November 15, 1968 in Williams, Ohio

- David is buried in Riverside Cemetery, Montpelier, Ohio

22. Mary Della Isenhart

(b. November 26, 1877 in Williams, Ohio)

Married Frederick Rothenberger on December 30, 1896 in Williams, Ohio

b. August 24, 1873 in Henry, Ohio

Had one child:

1. Carmen Rothenberger – b. 1899

Mary Della died on May 29, 1944 in Napoleon, Henry, Ohio

- Mary is buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Napoleon, Ohio

23. Sylvestor Smith Isenhart

(b. October 14, 1880 in Williams, Ohio)

Married Ida Ellen Richard in 1900 in Williams, Ohio
b. February 8, 1881 in Williams, Ohio
d. December 1, 1956 in Montpelier, Ohio

Had one child:
1. Phyllis Isenhart – b. 1915

Sylvestor died July 11, 1943 in Montpelier, Ohio
- Sylvestor is buried in Riverside Cemetery, Napoleon, Henry, Ohio

The Children of Albert Franklin Strawser

24. Wesley C. Strawser
(b. 1878 in Ohio)

25. Nelson Smith Strawser
(b. December 5, 1878 in Ohio)

Married Clara King on July 25, 1904 in DeKalb County, Indiana
b. October 9, 1884 in Indiana

Had three children:
1. Constance Strawser – b. December 18, 1910
2. Daisy Belle Strawser – b. December 25, 1912
3. Pearl Laverne Strawser – b. December 20, 1914

Nelson died on January 14, 1930 in Cook, Illinois

26. David S. Strawser
(b. April 18, 1880 in Florence, Ohio)

David died May 14, 1890 in Edon, Ohio

27. Frances Claire Strawser
(b. April 12, 1884 in Florence, Ohio)

Married Floyd Ernest Bailey in 1899

Frances Claire died in 1932

28. James Glenn Strawser
(b. January 12, 1886 in Ohio)

Married to Edna

James died on August 15, 1966 in Fort Wayne, Indiana

29. Selden Strawser

(b. October 28, 1888 in Florence, Ohio)

Selden died on March 18, 1889 in Edon, Ohio

30. Altina Belle Strawser

(b. February 14, 1890 in Florence, Ohio)

Married William Edwin Rogers on November 21, 1907 in Fort Wayne, Indiana

Altina died on April 18, 1971 in Fort Wayne, Indiana

31. Kyncelle Corwin Kyle Strawser

(b. July 21, 1892 in Edon, Ohio)

Married Robbie Lee Powell in 1919

Had four children:

1. Lavinia M Powell
2. Robert K Powell
3. Betty C Powell
4. Joseph C Powell

Kyncelle died in December 1972 in Fort Wayne, Indiana

The Children of Rufus Strawser

32. Jesse J. Strawser

(b. February 8, 1883 in Montpelier, Ohio)

Married Marie V. Schrump

33. Charles Strawser

(b. January 27, 1888 in Williams, Ohio)

Married Ida S. Hart

b. 1898

d. 1973 in Williams, Ohio

Had one child:

1. Charles W. Strawser – b. 1926

Charles died in 1968 in Williams, Ohio

- Charles is buried in Floral Grove, Pioneer, Williams, Ohio

34. Orville G. Strawser

(b. May 18, 1894 in Williams, Ohio)

Married Bessie O. Barnhart in 1920 in Williams, Ohio
b. November 2, 1896 in Pioneer, Ohio
d. January 9, 1993 in Montpelier, Ohio

Had three children:
1. Orville J. – b. December 10, 1922
2. Paul Eugene – b. July 2, 1924
3. Robert – b. 1929

Orville died in 1965 in Montpelier, Ohio
- Orville is buried in Floral Grove Cemetery, Williams, Ohio

The Fourth Generation

The Children of William Tecumseh Sherman Strawser

35. Earl George Strawser

(b. March 31, 1892 in Salem Twp., Steuben County, Indiana)

Earl George Strawser

Married Margaret Baughman in 1917 and in less than a year, she passed away

Married Emma Lavada Wilcox on January 17, 1919 in Pleasant Lake, Indiana

b. April 29, 1897 in Steuben, Indiana
d. November 2, 1967 in LaGrange, Indiana

Had ten children:

1. Wilma – b. December 25, 1919
2. Earl Dean – b. March 15, 1921
3. Wava Marie – b. July 30, 1922
4. Donna Maxine – b. April 11, 1924
5. Rhoda Rose – b. April 7, 1926
6. Tillie Ardel – b. April 26, 1927
7. Mary Ellen – b. February 6, 1929
8. Herbert A. – b. December 8, 1931
9. Buddy E. – b. January 1, 1933
10. Teddy G. – b. July 1, 1935

Back row, L-R: Mary, Tillie, Dean, Wava, Donna
Front row, L-R: Ted, Emma, Herb, Earl, Bud

Married Minnie Pennington in 1970

- Started farming in Steuben County, but later moved to LaGrange County.
- After he tired of farming, went into fence building. A good share of the fences found in LaGrange County could be traced back to him.
- He always raised watermelons and all the school kids would come and pick them at night.

Earl died on December 7, 1979 in Howe, LaGrange County, Indiana

- Earl is buried in Greenwood Cemetery, LaGrange, Indiana

36. Verna Strawser

(b. December 28, 1893 in Salem Twp., Steuben, Indiana)

Dan and Verna (Strawser) Tritch

Married Dan Tritch on March 22, 1911 in Noble County, Indiana

Fay, Evelyn, and Phyllis Tritch

Had three children:

1. Phyllis Tritch
2. Fay Tritch
3. Evelyn Tritch

- Dan and Verna started a hardware store in Hudson, Indiana
- Verna later started The Fashion Shop on main street in Kendallville, Indiana.

Verna died February 13, 1976 in Kendallville, Indiana

Verna and Verda

37. Verda Jane Strawser

(b. December 29, 1894 in Salem Twp., Steuben County, Indiana)

Verda (Strawser) and Ralph Dailey

Married Ralph C. Dailey on December 8, 1917 in Steuben County, Indiana

b. 1895 in Indiana
d. August 1, 1956 in Steuben County, Indiana

Had four children:

1. Robert Dailey
2. Howard Dailey
3. Helen Dailey
4. Ross Dailey

Verda died December 14, 1987 in Angola, Steuben County, Indiana

- Verda is buried in Flint Cemetery, Flint, Indiana

Ralph and Verda (Strawser) Dailey Family:
Front row, L-R: Howard, Ralph, Verda, Ross.
Back row, L-R: Robert, Helen

38. Carl Strawser

(b. June 22, 1897 in Salem Twp., Steuben County, Indiana)

Carl and Imogene (Bassett) Strawser

Married Imogene Bassett on January 22, 1918

Had five children:

1. Mildred
2. Forrest
3. Sherman
4. Carol
5. Naomi

- He was a retired construction worker
- He was a Mason and achieved the prestigious level of the 32nd degree
- Was a member of the St. Joe Valley Old Engine Association

Carl died December 13, 1983 in Kendallville, Indiana

- Carl and Imogene are buried in South Milford Cemetery, South Milford, Indiana

39. Wayne S. Strawser

(b. May 11, 1901 in Salem Twp., Steuben, Indiana)

Esther (Ulmer) and Wayne Strawser

Married Esther M. Ulmer on March 4, 1922 in Steuben, Indiana

Had five children:

1. DeWayne
2. Anna Marie
3. Jean
4. Don
5. Gloria

Back row, L-R: DeWayne, Esther, Wayne, Don
Front row, L-R: Gloria, Anna Marie, Jean

- Wayne took over the Strawser farm from his father Sherman and Grandfather George.
- Many were hopping trains as times were tough during the depression. Don recalls his dad Wayne and his brothers Wade and Carl, when they were young, would hop a train in Helmer to go to Chicago to see a professional baseball game. They would then hop the next train back after the game without being caught by the railroad police.
- Nut trees like hickory and walnuts were plentiful. Don recalls, Wayne would tip a hog trough with one end knocked out. He would hook

it up to a rear tire of a model T and use this shell the nuts to prepare them for pies and cakes.
- Wayne helped buy the organ for the Presbyterian Church in Salem.
- At one time, Wayne had an onion business with Sherman. One part of the farm had a muck field that was used as an onion business. The yellow onions thrived in this mucky environment.
- A portion of the property was turned into a fruit orchard made up of apples, pears and peaches. These were sold and canned for later use, like all farmers of that time used to do.

Wayne died on October 10, 1985 in Angola, Indiana
- Wayne is buried in Block Cemetery, north of Salem Center, Indiana

In 1928, Grandpa Sherman turns over the farm to his 5th son, Wayne. Sherman and Della retired to a house in Hudson, IN to pursue other interests such as boat building. Sherman would occasionally return to the farm to help with fence mending and other simple duties that were needed around the farm.

My father often tells stories of...
- No running water, had to heat water on stove
- No indoor plumbing or electricity
- An outhouse for the restroom
- At night would use the chamber pot kept under the bed
- Coal oil lamps
- Wood burning stoves
- Potbelly stoves
- A parlor that was used for entertaining guests only
- George & Sherman would go to the pond and cut ice blocks to put on a sled and take to the ice house where they would cover it with saw dust

After many years, Sherman retires to Hudson, IN after turning the farm over to his fifth child, Wayne.

As time progresses, things throughout the farm faced a dramatic change. The innovation of Eli Whitney's cotton gin, which spurred the industrial revolution, brings new and advanced equipment to the farm. Tractors become a regular part of the farm, replacing horses. Wayne would buy the newest equipment available.

In 1954, Don graduates from high school. He had spent the last ten years helping Wayne on the farm. The hard labor and little pay was not incentive enough, so Don declines the farm to seek other job opportunities in the city. Wayne decides to sell the property in 1956. This property that many generations, starting with George Strawser had labored upon now went up for sale.

40. Wade Albert Strawser

(b. November 17, 1902 in Salem Twp., Steuben, Indiana)

Wade and Lorene (Smith) Strawser

Married Lorene Smith on November 14, 1925 in Flint, Indiana

d. 1974

Herman and Twylo Strawser

Had two children:

1. Herman Lee
2. Twylo

- Was a farmer
- School bus driver for 32 years
- Belonged to the Hiawatha Lodge 528, Philomena Chapter 531 and Order of the Eastern Star of Stroh

Wade died April 21, 1958 in Steuben County, Indiana

- Wade is buried in Block Cemetery, Hudson, Indiana.

41. Ruby D. Strawser

(b. November 15, 1906 in Salem Twp., Steuben, Indiana)

Edgar and Ruby (Strawser) Hayward

Bobbie Hayward

Married Edgar Hayward on January 31, 1924 in Steuben County, Indiana

Had one child:

1. Bobbie Hayward – b. December 2, 1925

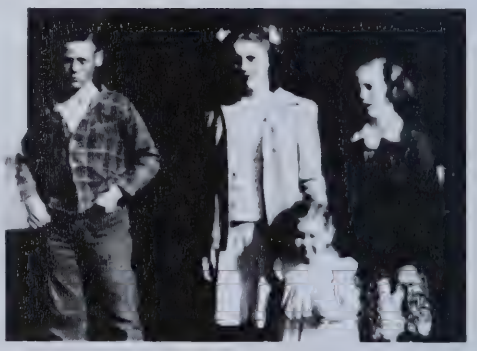
Married Harold Gantt on March 20, 1929 in Three Rivers, Michigan

Ruby (Strawser-Hayward) and Harold Gantt

Had four children:

1. Billie Gantt – b. June 3, 1931
2. Patty Gantt – b. September 15, 1932
3. Shirley Gantt – b. January 24, 1935
4. Linda Kay Gantt – b. October 31, 1943

- Harold and Ruby ran a trailer park on Lake of the Woods, west of Helmer, Indiana



L-R: Billie, Patty, Linda Kay, and Shirley

Ruby died October 23, 2006 in LaGrange, Indiana

- Ruby and Harold are buried in Wright Cemetery, Helmer, Indiana

The Children of George David Strawser

42. Loie Strawser

(b. October 25, 1893 in Indiana)

Back row, L-R: Paul, David, Worthy, Loyal
Front row, L-R: Loie holding Florence, George David, Dorothy, Minnie, Elwood, Walter

Married Walter Krebs
b. April 8, 1912
d. May 31, 1924 in South Milford

Had six children:
1. Elwood
2. Florence
3. Otis Albert
4. Celia Marguerite
5. Raymond Arthur
6. Wilma Leota

Loie died December 11, 1988 in Auburn, Indiana

- Loie is buried in South Milford Cemetery, South Milford, Indiana

43. Worthy A. Strawser

(b. February 19, 1897 in Indiana)

Worthy Strawser

Married Maud Blitz

Had no children

Married Frances Hatch

Had one child:
1. Rochielle

Worthy died in 1981 in Pierceton, Indiana

- Worthy is buried in Washington Union Cemetery, Pierceton, Indiana

44. Loyal Arthur

(b. January 11, 1900 in Helmer, Indiana)

Married Frances Pierson on December 24, 1924 in Steuben County, Indiana

Had six children:
1. Charles A.
2. Paul P.
3. Robert W.
4. Loyola Ann

5. Nelda
6. Marilyn

Loyal died May 13, 1964 in Angola, Indiana

45. Paul Ashby Strawser

(b. January 9, 1902 in Helmer, Steuben County, Indiana)

Never married

Paul died March 20, 1987 in Marion, Indiana

- Paul Ashby is buried in Covington Memorial Gardens, Fort Wayne, Indiana

46. David Emil Strawser

(b. April 7, 1906 in Indiana)

Married Ada Rowley

Had three children:

1. Joyce
2. Gwen
3. Mary

Married Cora Christina Armstrong

David died August 1979 in Arizona

- David and Cora are buried in King's Cemetery, Middlepoint, Ohio

47. Dorothy Irene Strawser

(b. December 22, 1907 in Helmer, Steuben County, Indiana)

Married Wilford Rowlison

Had five children:

1. Worthy Rowlison
2. George Rowlison
3. Kenneth Rowlison
4. Gene Rowlison
5. Lois Rowlison

Married Cleo Wideman

Dorothy died December 26, 1987 in Fort Wayne, Indiana

- Dorothy is buried in South Milford Cemetery, South Milford, Indiana

The Children of John Wesley Strawser

48. Beatrice Strawser

Beatrice (Strawser) Spencer

Married Jasper Spencer on October 10, 1914 in Garrett, DeKalb County, Indiana

Had five children:

1. John
2. Eleanor
3. June R.
4. Betty J.
5. Robert
6. Henrietta

The Children of David Ambrose Isenhart

49. Seldon Isenhart

(b. May 3, 1906 in Williams, Ohio)

Married Donilda Ruth Staup

b. August 22, 1908 in Defiance, Ohio
d. May 8, 1967 in Williams, Ohio

Had one child:

1. Kay Isenhart

Seldon died August 16, 1990 in Williams, Ohio

The Children of Nelson Smith Strawser

50. Pearl Laverne Strawser

(b. December 20, 1914 in Blakeslee, Ohio)

Married Alva Olen Strup (b. December 20, 1914 in Blakeslee, Ohio, d. January 11, 1996 in Sherwood, Michigan) in Williams, Ohio

Had six children:

1. June Louise Strup – b. 1936
2. Alva Laverne Strup – b. 1939
3. Dennis Lavon Strup – b. 1941
4. Hellen Luella Strup – b. 1943

5. Gary Strup – b. 1946
6. Marvin Lamoine Strup – b. 1947

Pearl died, January 11, 1996 in Sherwood, Michigan

The Children of Cora Etta (Strawser) Partee

51. Lowell Partee

Married Consuelo

Had one child:
1. Maryellen Partee

52. Owen Wayne Partee

Married Zepherine Roberage

Had one child:
1. Thelma Partee

Owen and Zepherine (Roberage) Partee

Thelma Partee

The Children of Orville G. Strawser

53. Orville J. Strawser

(b. December 10, 1922)

Married Ilogene Crall on March 19, 1949

Had four children:
1. Tom
2. Tim
3. Todd
4. Teri

The Fifth Generation

The Children of Earl George Strawser

Back row, L-R: Wava, Earl, Emma, Dean
Front row, L-R: Tillie, Mary, Donna, Ted, Herb, Bud

54. Wilma Strawser

(b. December 10, 1919 in Steuben County, Indiana)

Wilma died August 9, 1921 in Steuben County Indiana

55. Earl Dean Strawser

(b. March 15, 1921 in Steuben County, Indiana)

Married Katie Hochstetler on February 28, 1947 in LaGrange, LaGrange County, Indiana.

Had three children:

1. Sue
2. Jimmie
3. Ray

Earl Dean died November 21, 1989 in LaGrange, LaGrange County, Indiana

56. Wava Marie Strawser

(b. July 30, 1922 in Steuben County, Indiana)

Married Thomas Edward Brooks on August 5, 1941 in Cassopolis, Cass County, Michigan.

Had one child:

1. Tom Brooks

Wava died on March 18, 1992 in South Bend, St. Joseph County, Indiana

57. Donna Maxine Strawser

(b. April 11, 1924 in Steuben County, Indiana)

Married Burney Roy McDonald on June 24, 1944 in Miami, Dade County, Florida.

Had four children:

1. Cheryl McDonald

2. Victoria McDonald
3. Gary McDonald
4. Cathy McDonald

Donna Maxine died November 23, 2008 in Shipshewana, LaGrange County, Indiana

58. Rhoda Rose Strawser

(b. April 7, 1926 in Steuben County, Indiana)

Rhoda died in infancy on April 14, 1926 in Steuben County, Indiana

59. Tillie Ardel Strawser

(b. April 26, 1927 in Steuben County, Indiana)

Married Glenn Skeels

Had three children:

1. Glenn Skeels
2. Monty Skeels
3. Sherry Skeels

Tillie died April 14, 2001 in South Bend, St. Joseph County, Indiana

60. Mary Ellen Strawser

(b. February 29, 1929 in Steuben County, Indiana)

Married Donald Beers

Had five children:

1. Danny Beers
2. Terry Beers
3. Rick Beers
4. Ted Beers
5. Judy Beers

61. Herbert Albert Strawser

(b. December 8, 1931 in Steuben County, Indiana)

Herbert died February 22, 1951 in a tragic car-train accident in Sturgis, St. Joseph County, Michigan.

62. Buddy Eugene Strawser

(b. January 1, 1933 in Steuben County, Indiana)

Married Barbara Murdoch on September 22, 1958 in Wauseon, Ohio

Had 3 children:

1. Karen

2. Sandra
3. Robert

63. Teddy Gene Strawser

(b. July 1, 1935 in Steuben County, Indiana)

Married Peggie Ann Smith on October 7, 1958 in Wolcottville, LaGrange County, Indiana

Had 3 children:

1. Sherrie Strawser
2. Teresa Strawser
3. Michael Strawser

The Children of Verna (Strawser) Tritch

64. Phyllis Tritch

(b. April 1, 1912)

Married Jack Vanderbur

Adopted a child:

1. Ronald Faye Vanderbur

Phyllis died April 27, 2007

Phyllis and Evelyn Tritch

65. Fay Tritch

(b. October 6, 1913, d. 1934)

Fay died in a swimming accident in Noble County, Indiana in 1934

66. Evelyn Tritch

(b. September 7, 1919)

Married Frank Johnson in 1938

Had two children:

1. Diana Johnson
2. Danny Johnson

- Evelyn and Phyllis ran The Fashion Shop in Kendallville until about 1954. Diana remembers working in the Infants, Children and Ladies section for about $.50 an hour.

The Children of Verda (Strawser) Dailey

67. Robert Dailey

Married Iola Coney on March 9, 1950

Had two children:
1. Terry Dailey
2. Sally Dailey

68. Howard Dailey

Married Margaret Brand on November 23, 1946

Had five children:
1. John Dailey
2. Martha Dailey
3. Lynn Dailey
4. Susan Dailey
5. Karen Dailey

69. Helen Dailey

Married Larry Hodge

Had one child:
1. Howard Hodge

70. Ross Dailey

Married Janet Van Pelt on December 27, 1948

Had three children:
1. Patsy Dailey
2. Peggie Dailey
3. Polly Dailey

The Children of Carl Strawser

71. Mildred Strawser

Married Keith Todd

Had three children:
1. John Todd
2. Nancy Todd
3. Beverly Todd

Back row, L-R: Forest-Carol, Mildred, Naomi, Sherman
Front row, L-R: Carl, Imogene

72. Forest Strawser

Married Carol Faux

Had five children:
1. Maynard
2. Robert
3. Stephen
4. Randall
5. Linda Lou

Forest died May 22, 2003

73. Sherman Strawser

Married Marjorie Ann Warble

Had three children:
1. Cindy
2. Diana
3. Greg

- Sherman was a World War II veteran
- Sherman and Forest started a construction company together

Sherman died on September 8, 2011 in Kendallville, Indiana.
- Sherman is buried in South Milford Cemetery, South Milford, Indiana

74. Carol Strawser

Married Max Helmer on January 15, 1949

Had three children:
1. Terry Helmer
2. Sharon Helmer
3. Janene Helmer

75. Naomi Strawser

Married Don Moore

Had three children:
1. Patty Moore
2. Janet Moore
3. Pam Moore

The Children of Wayne Strawser

76. DeWayne Strawser

Married Rita

Had four children:
1. Larry
2. David
3. Dennis
4. Steve

Back row, L-R: Don, Gloria, DeWayne, Anna Marie, Jean
Front row, L-R: Wayne, Esther

77. Anna Marie Strawser

Married Pete Roemer

Had two children:
1. Joyetta Roemer
2. Sandra Roemer

78. Jean Strawser

Married Tom Loftus

Had three children:
1. Tom Loftus
2. John Loftus
3. Jim Loftus

79. Don Strawser

Married Marilyn Schmidt on July 1, 1960 in Fort Wayne, Indiana

Had one child:
1. Scott – b. December, 13, 1962

- After his father Wayne sold the Strawser Farm, Don went on to put 30 years at International Harvester where he retired. Don studied to become a private pilot. He traveled abroad with his family, going to Europe more than five times and traveled to the Middle East visiting the countries of Israel and Jordan. He now fishes and hunts with his son Scott, which leads to where our story began.
- Don and his cousin Shirley Gantt were jokesters in their own right. They would put gunpowder into the ashtrays of the adults at the reunions. Since many of the older men smoked cigars, there were often the sounds of loud bangs and poofs as they set their cigars down into the ashtrays as they settled down for their card games. The shouts of the startled men, would send Don and Shirley running but the rest of the family would laugh!

80. Gloria Ellen Strawser

Married William Stackhouse

Had three children:
1. William Stackhouse
2. Jeff Stackhouse
3. Pam Stackhouse

The Children of Wade Albert Strawser

81. Herman Lee Strawser

Married Mary Butler

Had three children:
1. Vicki
2. Toni
3. Peggie

82. Twylo Strawser

Married Dean Norman

Had three children:
1. Steve Norman
2. Craig Norman
3. Sue Norman

Wade Strawser holding Herman Lee and Twylo

The Children of Ruby D. (Strawser) Hayward Gantt

83. Bobbie Hayward

Married Reta Herman

Had three children:
1. Nanette Hayward
2. Ned Hayward
3. Janeann Hayward

Back row, L-R: Billie, Flo Rose, Bobbie
Front row, L-R: Shirley, Patty (Linda Kay died at four years of age)

84. Billie Gantt

Married Connie Long

Had two children:
1. Becky Gantt
2. Billie Gantt

85. Patty Gantt

Married Art Frehse

Had three children:
1. Gary Frehse
2. Lynn Frehse
3. Karen Frehse

Married Richard White

86. Shirley Gantt

Married Jerry Garrison

Had three children:
1. Allen Garrison
2. Byron Garrison
3. Charles Garrison

87. Lynda Kay Gantt

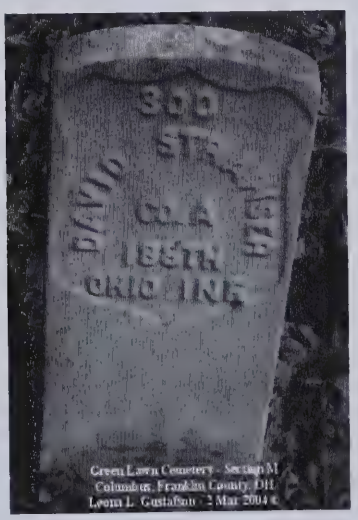
Lynda died at four years of age

The Civil War Years

George W. Strawser

John Strawser

Phillip Strawser

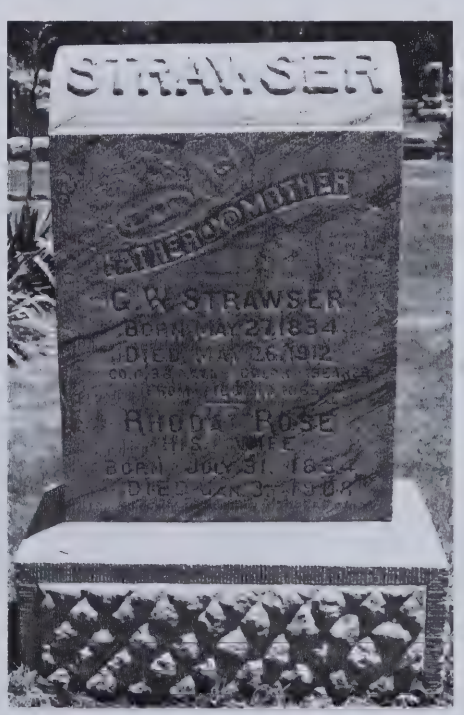


Tombstone of David Strawser died in Civil War

The Civil War Story of George W. Strawser

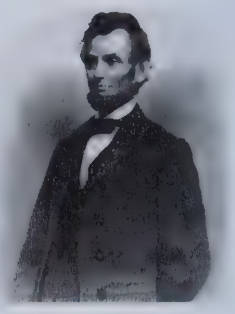
Told by Scott Strawser

As my father and I were returning from a recent fishing trip on Little Turkey Lake, in northern Indiana, my father suggested we visit the Strawser family plots at Circle Cemetery in Hudson, Indiana. As we got out of the truck and walked over to where my ancestors were buried, I looked ahead and my eye traveled to a large marble head stone that prominently stood above the rest. My father immediately noticed the change in my features as my eyes narrowed to read the inscriptions encircling the head stone. He informed me that this is your great great grandfather who fought in the Civil War. As we stood there admiring the stone, I began to read the dates of his service, 1861-1865. It moved me greatly to realize that he was able to survive the whole civil war. It shocked me even greater when my father then mentioned, "by the way, he was a flag bearer." "Holy Cow! I can't believe this! I just can't get over this!" As I kept expressing multiple exclamations, my father came closer to see what I was reacting to. I pointed to the dates on the stone and exclaimed again that it was remarkable to think he went through the entire war. As we stood there looking back and forth between the head stone and each other, I asked if he knew anything more about him. "That's really all any of us knew of him," he replied. As a student of history, I knew I wanted to learn more. I rummaged through the truck and found some paper and made a rubbing of the dates, company and regiment he was with carved onto the head stone. I wrote down any other pertinent information I could find and decided then and there, I was going to find out more.



Right away I forwarded my newly found information to the National Archives in Washington D.C. Several weeks had passed, when a large envelope arrived in the mail with a return address from the United States War Department National Archives. As I read through the information and studied the details of his tour of duty, I quickly realized, this was the greatest

story of my family that had never been told of how one young man came through the Civil War with flying colors...



Having tension raised to an all-time high, the States to the south recall their Representatives from Washington D.C. to implement a new government in the south. Shortly after, in the early morning of 1861, shots ring out over Fort Sumter. President Abraham Lincoln would make the decision that would usher in the worst war in terms of casualties the United States of America would ever see.

The following is the story of one of four brothers of the Strawser family. This is a recount of a man who was a Union soldier who fought almost the whole war through with flying colors.

George and his three brothers Philip, John, and David, have made a decision. They will answer the call from President Abraham Lincoln. Over 200,000 volunteers from Ohio are asked to take up arms and defend the Union in the Civil War on American soil.

Philip Strawser joined the war as a private in Company E of the 111th Regiment of the Voluntary Infantry of Ohio. George and John joined Company D of the 38th regiment of the Voluntary Infantry of Ohio. David joined 188th regiment of the Voluntary Infantry of Ohio.

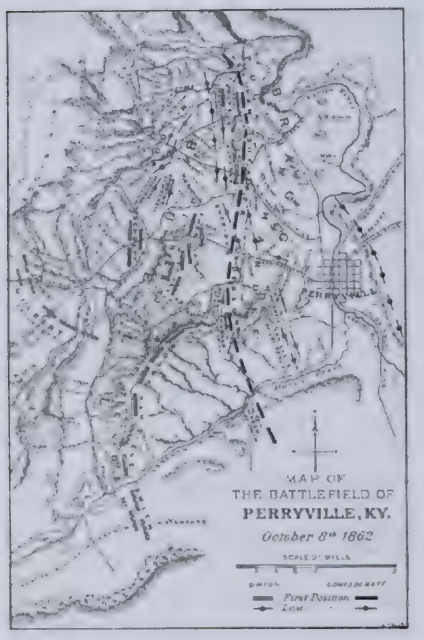
38th Regiment of the Voluntary Infantry of Ohio

George joined on August 15, 1861, as a private at age 24 and will serve honorably until his discharge as a corporal on June 29, 1865. George was given the monumental task of being the color bearer. The color bearer played a critical role in battle strategy. They carried a fourteen foot tall pole that included the colors and banners of their regiment into the battle. Engagement outcomes hinged on the ability of a corps commander or generals to see where their division was by the position of the colors on a smoke covered battle field. Use of flags would also relay messages for maneuvers for the battle. Sharpshooters on both sides of the war were instructed to kill the color bearer with the intention of blinding the leaders on maneuverability and position in the battle.

The 38th Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry was organized in Defiance, Ohio on July 24, 1861. The term of service was set to be three years.

The 38th Ohio Infantry was transferred to Camp Dennison on September 22nd, 1861 for drilling and discipline. They were ordered into active service in Kentucky on the 1st of October. They relieved the garrison in Wild Cat, Kentucky. Afterward they pursued the enemy throughout Kentucky during the fall of 1861. During the winter of 1861 and spring of 1862, the men, being almost constantly on duty and not accustomed to the rough aspects of camp life, many became sickly and in a short time, less than 300 of the 990 men were fit for duty. In March of 1862, the 38th Regiment joined the other regiments from Ohio to form the Army of the Ohio.

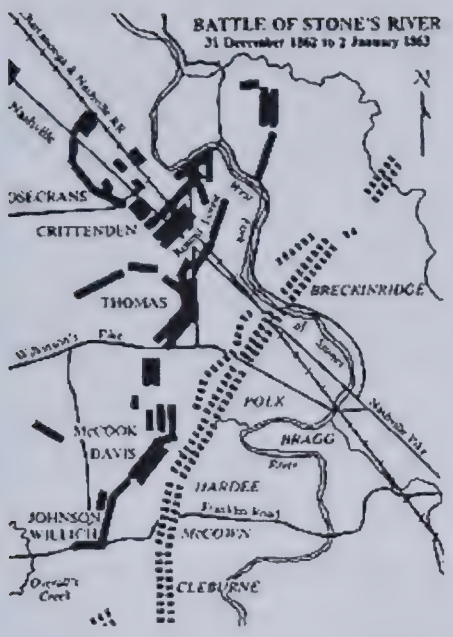
For the next year the 38th will march with the Army of the Ohio in pursuit of Beauregard throughout Georgia and Alabama. They would also participate in several reconnaissance missions, many of which the 38th were the most active in participation. These mercenaries were responsible for destroying tobacco, whisky, leather goods and as well as other property. During these missions, the 38th never lost a man. In September, the 38th Ohio would start the return back north. They would settle for a short time near Louisville then proceed to participate in the Battle of Perryville, KY.



Perryville, KY ... October 8, 1862

Armed with only an Army Colt for his right hand, an infantry sabre at his side, and the regiment colors in his left, George W. Strawser lead his regiment into battle at Perrysville, KY. The weather was fair and morale was high. The men marched out to the cheerful sound of fife and drum, their sabers and bayonets flashing and gleaming in the sun. Kentucky was in the throes of drought. It had lasted all summer and into the fall and the troops were plodding along chalk dirt roads and tormented by unrelenting thirst. What few sources of water they could find along their march, were often contaminated with waste matter or dead animals. The still-flowing river crossing central Kentucky near the little hamlet of Perryville was the drawing point of both armies. On October 6, the Rebels arrived first and on the 7th the Union Army of the Ohio began to arrive. Skirmishes began almost immediately, mostly due to the scavenging taking place between the two groups coming upon each other's finds. As the two groups began to set up places for battle, assumptions on both parts led to blundering confusion. By day's end Buell had won at least a partial victory and Bragg pulled off to the southeast, ending the Confederate invasion of Kentucky. Casualties of this battle were reported at over 7600 men between the two sides.

During the months of November and December 1862, the 38th would be placed in charge of guarding railroads between Gallatin and Nashville. From here they headed to Nashville and prepared for the approaching campaign that terminated with the battle of Stone River.



Stone River, TN ... December 31, 1862 - January 2, 1863

Since Perryville there had been over seven thousand desertions. Under the new direction of General William Rosecrans, some ways of soldier's life within the 38th Ohio had improved. Things like food, mail and pay seemed to be better, but it soon turned back around to unsatisfying conditions. Many of the men were experiencing delays in their back pay and replacement of supplies forcing them to have to sleep outside without tents and canvas. When they decamped to move towards Nashville, nerves were frayed and violence sometimes flared. Upon arrival after Christmas, skirmishes with the Confederates began quickly. Rebel "nests" were uncovered as the Federal army advanced. Gloomy weather that included torrential rainfalls made movement difficult and cumbersome. The fight was difficult at Stone's River. With low amounts of supplies and difficult weather, there were often talks of retreat for the Federal Army, but the Federal generals held, reminding each other that retreat was not an option for the Union. The 38th played a conspicuous part in the battle, losing few men. Casualties of this battle were reported at over 21,000 men between both sides.

After the battle they set up camp near the city until March when it joined forces at Triune. While there they build the earth fortress know as Fort Phelps.

Hoover's Gap, TN ... June 23-30, 1863

On the 23rd of June, the 38th marched with the Army of the Cumberland and took an active part in the Tullahoma campaign.

Small skirmishes took place here as well as around Liberty Gap, TN as Federal armies were moving toward Georgia.

On August 17th, the 38th began the march of Chattanooga. They moved across the Cumberland Mountains and finally halt on the banks of the Tennessee. Here they construct rafts of logs and cross the river at night in early September. In the middle of September, the army found themselves gathered in Lookout Valley preparing for battle.

Since battle was getting close a large train belonging to the entire army was sent to Chattanooga. The 38th Ohio was charged, by special orders from Gen. Thomas, with safe transit of this immense train.

Chickamauga, GA ...
September 19-20, 1863

Since the 38th was focused on this important task, they were not able to participate in the struggle on the field of Chickamunga. Casualties: 34,600.

There were torrential rains that autumn. The men slept in mud puddles and were sick. Aunt Ruby Gantt recalls her grandfather telling stories about the amount of water they dealt with during their time in Chattanooga while ensuring the safety of this important train of supplies. During this time a close friend and marching companion, Mr. Higbea got the measles. No matter how ill the soldiers were, they had to keep marching. Mr. Higbea was very sick and tired. Whenever they stopped, the soldiers would lay down beside the road to rest, often out in the open in the elements. One night George recalled that he fell asleep and awoke the next morning to find it had rained so hard he awoke in a mud puddle along with his friend Mr. Higbea. Mr. Higbea contracted pneumonia and died but not before asking George to look after his wife, Rhoda Rose Higbea, and their son.

Missionary Ridge, TN ...
November 25, 1863

On the 25th of November, 1863, the 38th Regiment along with the other divisions they are joined with assaulted the fortifications at the foot of Mission Ridge. They ascended the hill and carried the works, driving the rebels from them. The 38th was on the extreme left of the army, and although Bragg had pronounced the slope inaccessible, the 38th moved up, up, up until the summit was reached. Few were injured in this movement, despite the horrific fires burning from the rebel batteries. Casualties in this battle were over 12,500. 60 of those men were color bearers.

After pursuing the enemy as far as Ringgold, Georgia, the 38th returned to Chattanooga. Here they were re-enlisted as a veteran organization and was furloughed home.

George would take this furlough to return home to marry Rhoda Rose Higbea on February 24, 1864.

At the expiration of the furlough, the regiment joined the army, then at Ringgold, GA. Recruits were sent forward, and when General Sherman started for Atlanta, the regiment numbered 741 men.

On May 5th, the regiment broke camp and marched to Buzzard's Roost Gap where it was brought into action. The 38th erected field-works, skirmished continually and though did not participate in any general engagements, did lose several men during this time.

Kenesaw Mountain, GA ...
June 9-30, 1864

Grant with his men at Lookout Mountain

After evacuation of Roost's Gap, the regiment participated actively in the siege of Kenesaw, fortifying and skirmishing for a month to keep the area under Union control.

In early July, the 38th reached the Chattahoochie River where they remained until late July when orders to advance were received.

Nickajack Creek, GA ... July 22, 1864

Atlanta, GA (Hood's First Sortie)... July 22, 1864

On July 22, the 38th were given the honor of establishing the picket-line of the Fourteenth Army Corps, near the City of Atlanta. Here they held the place in line until August 3, when it moved to Utoy Creek.

Palisades and chevaux-de-frise in Atlanta, GA, 1864

The Battle of Utoy Creek

Utoy Creek, GA ... August 5-6, 1864

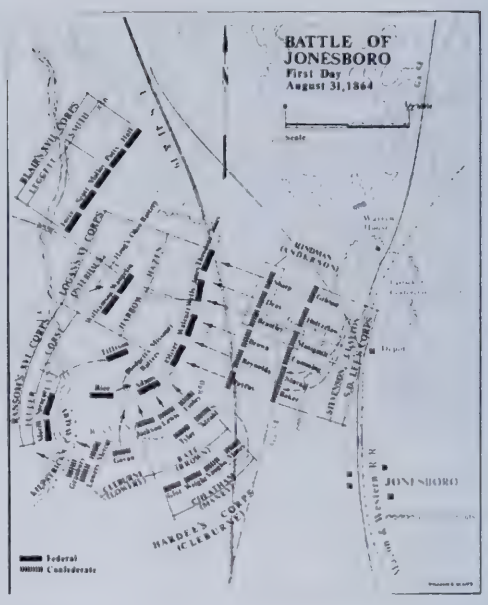
On the 5th of August, a portion of the regiment charged the enemy's skirmish line and was successful. On the night of August 25th, the regiment marched with the army on a flanking expedition, and on the 27th struck the Atlanta & West Point Railroad. They remained there until advancing on the night of the 31st to take possession of Macon Road, near Red Oak Station.

Sherman examining the demolition of the tracks in Georgia.

Jonesboro, GA ... August 31 – September 1, 1864

During this time near the railroads, their assignment was to destroy the rails. Rails were first heated then using oxen and

horses the rails were dragged away from the tracks. To save their remaining means of transport, under General John Bell Hood, the Confederacy hurried troops to Jonesboro to stop the destroying of their supply lines. Another skirmish is about to begin. The 38th Regiment awoke the morning of August 29th with the knowledge that they were the only Union representation, that other troops were on their way, but they would going into battle outnumbered six men to one.



Five men were assigned that morning to be color bearers: Corporal Oscar Randall, Corporal George W. Strawser, Corporal Charles Donze, Corporal Darius Baird, and Corporal H. K. Brooks. At 4:00 in the afternoon, the orders to march are given as other Union troops join the battle. The enemy's fire was terrible. One sergeant of the Confederate 9th Kentucky was quoted in saying, "We soon saw the blue coats swarming in the woods on the other side of the field in our front. Our sharpshooters opened with their long-range guns on them & we saw several fall & the others begin to seek cover." Many of the 38th boys went down, Corporal Randall being among that number, pierced by a minié ball. The colors were immediately taken by Corporal Baird who also fell dead quickly when he is shot in the head. In the midst of this exchange, Corporal George Strawser next raised the flag. He proceeded forward and he too is shot. The bullet hit the right side of his shoulder blade and took a large piece of flesh out between the shoulder blade

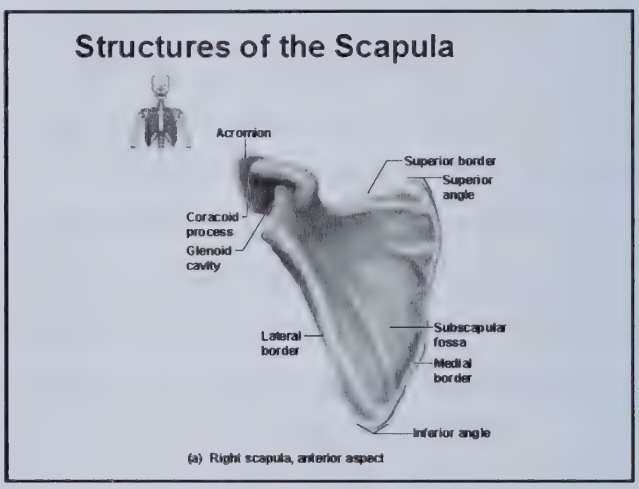
The Battle of Jonesboro

and the back bone. The volley continued between the Rebels and the Union. Even though shot, George fights to ensure the flag remains flying in an effort to give sight to those that are in need of it. Col. Choate, seeing the colors go down, made an effort to reach them, and while in the act of seizing the flag, received a mortal wound. As Corporal Donze moved forward, Captain Stafford seized a hold of him and begged him to carry him back. Another soldier nearby try to assist, but as they moved him, Capt. Stafford was hit by a ball strike. Corporal Donze, turning away from Capt. Stafford, discovered the colors lying on the ground. He picked them up and forced his way through, planting the colors on the works. The remnant of the brave 38th Regiment, who had not gone down in that terrible "baptism of fire," closed up to their colors, captured many prisoners and held their position. This battle was one of the bloodiest battles of the war. A recount of the fight from Sergeant Major John W. Green of the 9th Kentucky, "there was not a twig which had not been cut down by bullets and there were trees as big as a man's leg which were actually whittled down by minié balls. It seemed a miracle that any living soul could have survived that hailstorm of lead." This brutal battle, which only had about an hour of fighting, was important to both sides, since both knew that the finality of the war was at stake as to which side won on this day.

While in a field hospital for the wound to his shoulder, the injury was more severe than first thought. Efforts to keep George's wound from infection do not go well and George's shoulder starts to suffer from the aspects of gangrene. It kept him in the hospital for almost four months. It turns out the bullet that struck him was a minié ball, which expanded on impact, smashed the tissue it tore through and splintered bone. The prospects for George keeping his arm were not good. As one Union doctor tactfully put it, "the minié ball striking bone does not permit much debate about amputation." The usual procedure for care of this type of injury was to liquor up the patient, possibly anesthetize with ether, or give morphine to block the pain. More often than not, morphine was rubbed into the wound. The wound was probed, loose pieces of bone and tissue removed, and a wad of lint was used to plug it up. Afterwards he would have been given some quinine to help fortify his system while the wound was sloughed and healed.

No. 2 General Hospital in Nashville, TN

In the transport of George from field hospital to 3rd Div. Hospital near Atlanta and Jonesboro, maggots make their way into the wound. Though many would have considered this the end, maggots actually became little nurses to George. These little disease eaters, ate away at the infection in George's shoulder. Upon arrival at the next hospital, doctors found a wound that normally would have been infected to the point of need for amputation, now found a wound that had been naturally cleaned and was ready for attention. These little maggots not only saved George's life but his arm as well. George will remain at this hospital for about a month then transferred to No. 2 General Hospital in Nashville, TN in October. On October 27, 1864 George has surgery on the acromion end of his right scapula. After the surgery, George received furlough for 30 days based on medical condition and inability to travel. His medical condition seemed to keep him from returning to duty since records show that he did not report back until February of 1865 in Louisville, KY. From there he was sent to Washington and then admitted to Soldiers Rest, Alexandria, VA on February 23, 1865. This area has a compound for invalid soldiers, so it's likely that he continued part of his recuperation in this location. From there he was transferred to a hospital on April 14, 1865 where he was released and returned to duty on the same day.



Grand Review of the Armies in Washington D.C. on May 24, 1865

George then rejoined his unit as an active duty soldier. The 38th Regiment of Ohio would join other units as the Army of Georgia under command of William T. Sherman for the "Grand Review of the Armies" in Washington D.C. This military procession and celebration took place on May 23 and 24, 1865 following the close of the Civil War. Elements of the Union Army parade through the streets of the capital to receive accolades from the crowds and reviewing politicians, officials, and prominent citizens, including the now President of the United States, Andrew Johnson. On May 24, General Sherman led the 65,000 men of the Army of the Tennessee and the Army of Georgia with uncharacteristic semblance of military precision. For six hours, under bright sunshine, the men who had marched through Georgia and had destroyed John Bell Hood's army now paraded in front of joyous throngs lining the sidewalks, peering through windows and rooftops.

After the Grand Review, the 38th Ohio Infantry would muster out of service on July 12, 1865 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Though enrolled as a private, he was discharged as a corporal. He had been a brave and stalwart soldier and, despite his comparatively humble rank, had proved his worth as a man by any standard that counts. Though wearied and saddened by the war, he believed it had been fought to good purpose. He had thought so at the beginning, and he thought so at the end. But he had no taste for war itself. He had seen enough of that.

In the course of his years of service, George had marched three thousand miles on foot; covered another seventeen hundred or so by boat and rail; fought in numerous battles; and one would have to imagine he had received minor wounds numerous times in all of the engagements seen. He had lost numerous friends and most especially a sorrow that would never heal, his beloved brother David.

Last casualty report:

- 2.2 million union army and navy combined
- 360,222 were killed
- 275,100 were wounded
- 800,000 in the confederate army
- 258,000 were killed
- 125,000 were wounded

Over 1.5 million men were wounded or killed in the Civil War

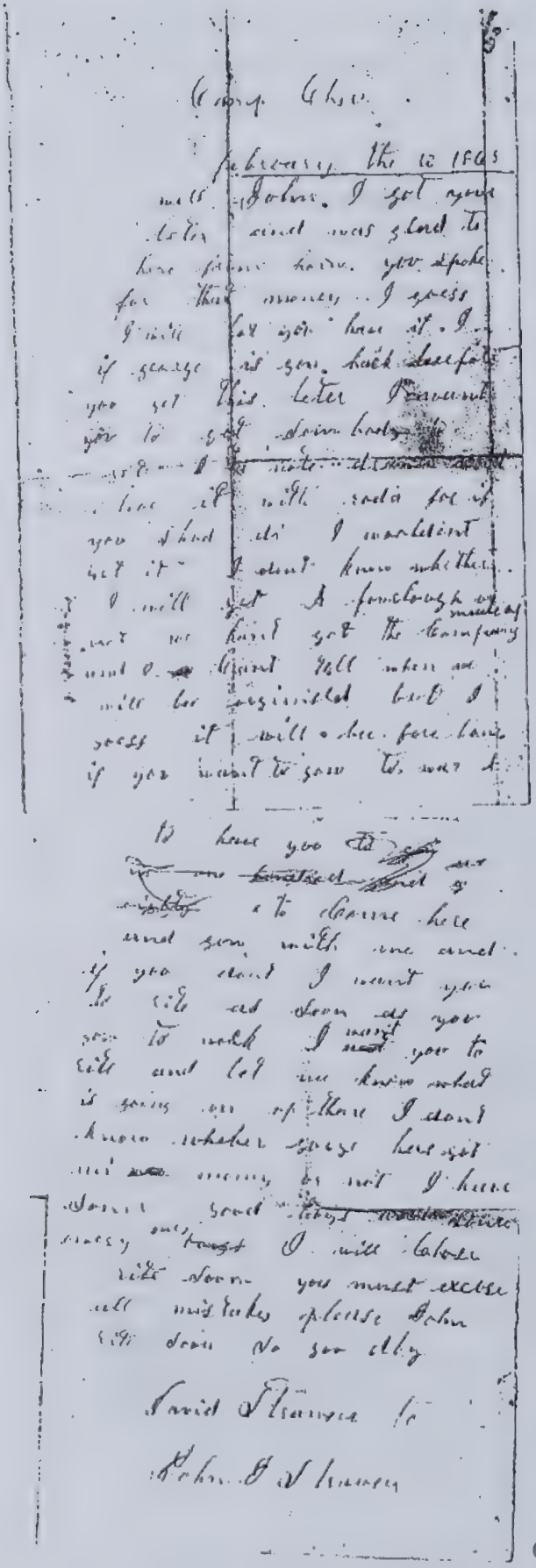
February 1865, David Strawser contracts the measles and dies.

Picture above starting at the bottom left: Re-enlistment stripe worn on sleeve, Re-enlistment medal from State of Ohio, Veterans of Civil War medal, 40th Anniversary of OVI campaign medal. Top center: Corporal stripes also worn on sleeve, Purple Heart medal for wounds received in Jonesboro, photo of George with flag he carried in the campaign

The state of Ohio authorized Tiffany & Company of New York to provide 20,000 medals to recognize those soldiers from Ohio who re-enlisted from the state under War Department General Orders, No. 191, which called for "Veteran Volunteers." These were soldiers who completed their tour of duty and then signed up for further duty as a Veteran Volunteer. The medals were distributed in the summer of 1866 and are engraved with the name and unit. Today, the conditions of the medals vary greatly but are often found in parts.

Scott contacted collector, Ralph Baughn, while researching the story of George Strawser. Ralph verified that George was on the list of having received this medal. Being so moved by the story of George, Ralph presented Scott with this actual re-enlistment medal as a gift.

Ralph Baughn and Scott meet at Pokagon to share the story and Ralph presents Scott with the medal



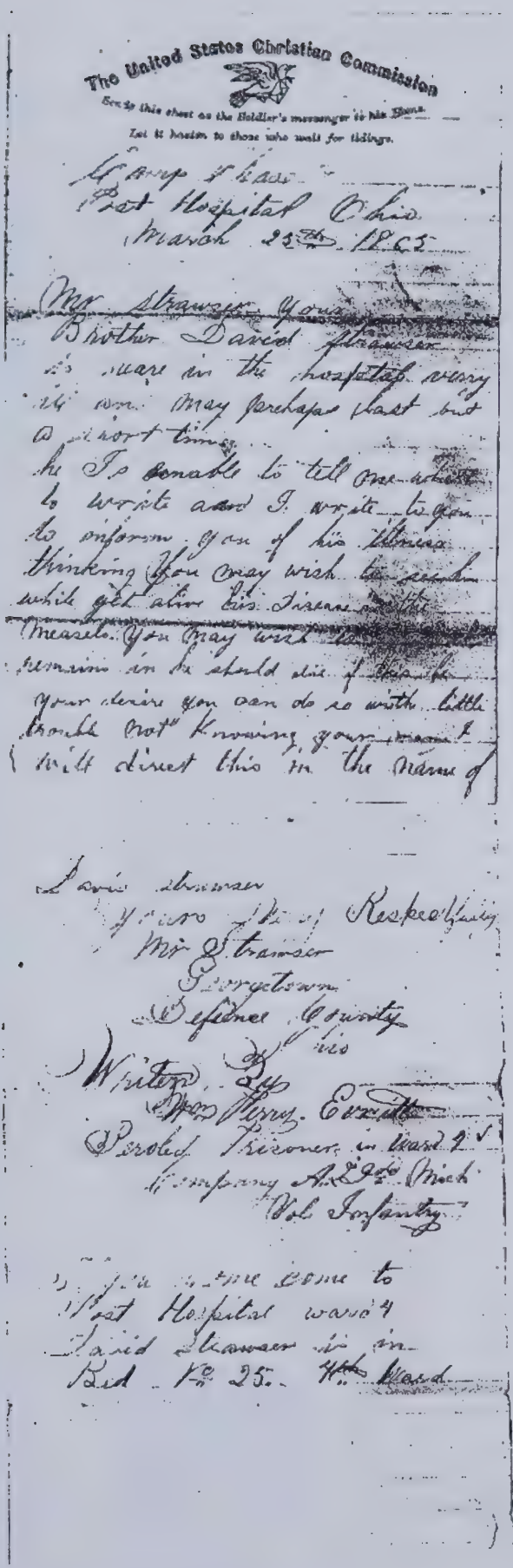
Camp Chase

February 12, 1865

From David to John

Well John, I got your letter and was glad to hear from home. You spoke for that money, I guess I will let you have it. If George is gone, but before you get this letter I meant you to get somebody to get this note elsewhere and leave it with Roda for if you should die I wouldn't get it. I don't know whether I will get a furlough or not; having got the confounded measles and I can't tell when I'll be reinstated. But I guess it won't be for long. If you want to serve two more again I would like you to come here and serve with me and if you don't I want you to write and let me know what's going on there. I don't know whether George has got my money or not. I have some. Your good boys and love everyone I will please ask you write soon you must excuse all mistakes please John write soon do so daily.

David Strawser to John Strawser


The United States Christian Commission

Send by this sheet as the Soldier's messenger to his Home.

Let it hasten to those who wait for tidings.

Camp Chase
Post Hospital Ohio
March 25th 1865

Mr Strawser Your
Brother David Strawser
is near in the hospital very
ill and may perhaps last but
a short time.
He Is Conable to tell one what
to write and I write to you
to inform you of his illness
thinking You may wish to see him
while yet alive his disease is the
measels. You may wish to procure his
remains in he should die if this be
your desire you can do so with little
trouble not Knowing your name I
will direct this in the name of

David Strawser
Yours very Respectfully
Mr Strawser
Georgetown
Defiance County
Ohio

Written By
Pvt Perry Evritt
Paroled Prisoner in Ward 2
Company A 22d Mich
Vol Infantry

If he come come to
Post Hospital ward 4
David Strawser is in
Bed No 25. 4th Ward

Camp Chase March 25, 1865

Mr. Strawser,

Your brother David Strawser is here in the hospital very ill and may perhaps last but only a short time.

He is able to tell one what to write and so I write to you to inform you of his illness. Thinking you may wish to see him while yet alive in his disease in the measles.

You may wish to procure his remains in he should die.

If this be your desire you can do so with little trouble. Not knowing your name, I will direct this in the name of David Strawser. If you come, come to Post Hospital Ward 4, Bed no. 25.

Yours very respectfully Mr. Strawser

Written by Private Perry Evritt, Union Company A 22nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry

For more information about David's regiment and Camp Chase, please check pages 6-7.

As with all veterans, George's wounds and the war would always be with him the rest of his life. George named his first son Sherman, after the general that he served under with such great admiration. George also eventually lost the use of the arm in which he received the wound to the shoulder, though it was later in life when it became totally useless. But George was proud of his time in service. He would attend the reunions of the soldiers of the Civil War and would proudly carry the flag while telling stories of the battles and memories fought under its starry folds. The flag that George carried can still be seen at the Montpelier Museum in Ohio.

Even now, I'm still moved when I hear the National Anthem played and see a flag flying to know that through devotion to his country and the courage of bravery to enlist twice to fight in this nation's bloodiest war moves me still. To have found the story and share it with you, the story of a man who went through the Civil War with flying colors.

An Interesting Find...

During our research, we have discovered that we are "double related" through grandmothers and grandfathers. Not only do we share George W. Strawser as Civil War Veteran on the grandfather side, but we have Clark Lewis Wilcox on our grandmother's side. And to make it even more meaningful, our discovery coincides with 150th Anniversary of the Civil War.

Cheryl completed the process for getting Clark as well as future descendants into the society of Civil War families of Indiana. Scott completed the process in 2012 for getting George as well as future descendants recognized through the Sons of the Union Civil War Veterans association.

Clark Lewis Wilcox

George W. Strawser

Cheryl receiving her Descendants of Indiana Civil War Veterans Medal

Scott receiving his Sons of Union Veterans Medal

George Heads West

Upon returning home from war, George and Rhoda traded the farm that Rhoda had lived on with her previous husband, Mr. Higbea. She had gained this farm after trading a cow for the 20 acres. The story handed down in the family goes that Rhoda worked for a doctor for 25¢ a week. When she quit, the doctor gave her a cow. As she was walking down the street with the cow, she met a man who wanted to trade a 20 acre farm for the cow. So she did. When she married Mr. Higbea, they lived on this farm. When Mr. Higbea was killed in the war, George married Rhoda upon Mr. Higbea's request.

They traded the farm for a farm east of Angola by Metz, Indiana. They then traded this farm for the Strawser homestead south of Salem Center where George built the long straight road that is still there today.

It was here that George sought the peace and serenity that he hoped to attain after the many difficult years and horrors that he witnessed in the war.

After many years on the farm, George, at the request of his wife Rhoda, turns the farm over to Sherman and retires.

Life on an Indiana Farm

1920s shot of Strawser homestead
L-R Esther, Sherman, & Wayne

Farming back then was a much different business than it is today. There was no tractors with air conditioned cabs with notebook computers, GPS or satellite. No high yield seed and no Weather Channel to give you a 10-15 day forecast to plan your planting and harvesting. Knowing when to plant and when to harvest was the life blood of the farmer and it could make or break you if you chose wrong. Farming during this time did not have opportunities for the government to pay to not plant a crop, if you didn't plant a crop, you went under.

No El-Nino or El-Lanya. No such thing as global warming. There weren't just the 2 seasons of today with either extreme heat and no water or extreme cold with no snow. These would all come later in history. It was then and to some degree today, very hard, physically demanding work and when horse power meant just that. One man operated plow pulled by a horse or two plowing, sowing, and harvesting.

Wayne Strawser on wagon as Frank Ulmer looks on

Farming also brought with it large families. Large families meant more hands to do the work.

Farming had its challenges, innovations, accidents, financial concerns and more. Borrowing to pay for the feed hoping it would pay out in the end when the harvest comes in.

L-R: Queen, Peg, and Babe (behind Peg)

As there was so much to do on a large farm, one can imagine how things always needed to be done. A farm was in essence the first home business. Being a farmer required things to work as smoothly as a Swiss watch. Work including, but not

limited to mending fences, milking cows, mowing hay and putting it in the hay mound in the upper level of the barn. Livestock feeding, eggs to gather, butchering day, canning fruit and vegetables and of course the constant maintenance and mending of farm equipment. One gets the idea that there was never an end to work that needed to be done on the farm.

My father's fond memories included wheat threshing days which involved all the

Threshing day on the Strawser Farm 1942

neighboring farmers to help one another combine and thresh wheat. Don Strawser recalls as a little boy running early in the morning down the road to meet the steam engine that was coming to be belted up to the equipment. He loved riding it from the road to the farm. One half mile south and a one half mile west of Salem was the saw mill operated by Casey and Frank Cool. This partnership between Casey and Frank was there until Frank's death in 1952. Many farmers in the township had depended on this saw mill to prepare their native lumber for building purposes. The Cool Brothers also operated several threshing machines in the community, before the combines were put into use. Wives would all help in the kitchen to prepare a big meal for the men in the field, having a good hot meal ready by noon. Don's job was one of the most important. Each morning during the threshing time, he would saddle up his pony and throughout day would deliver water out to the men working in the field. Don recalls it looking like a bee hive of

Don selecting the chicken for the evening meal. 1939.

activity with all the baking and cooking in the kitchen and field hands from all around gathered to bring in the harvest.

In late fall, there would be wood to cut in preparation for winter. Picking corn and stacking the shocks up in the field. My father recalls having the house decorated with pumpkins and corn shocks and holding Halloween parties for his classmates complete with bobbing for apples and hayrides.

Don's prize 4-H hogs. Took second place. Hamshire Hogs.

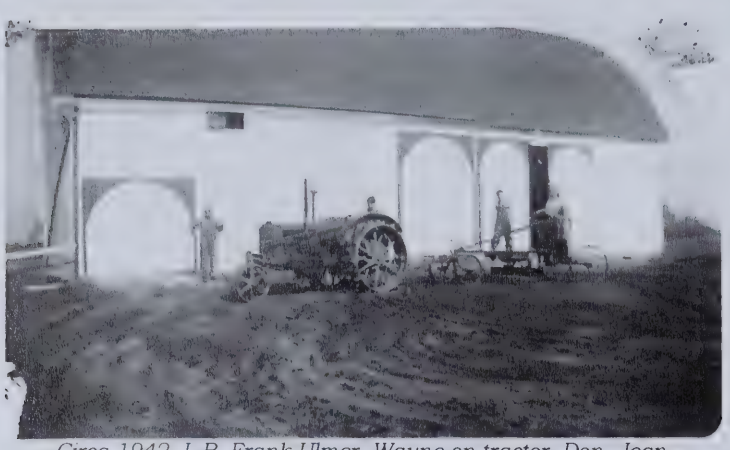
Much of the Strawser homestead hadn't changed since George had first built it. My father often tells of no running water, or heat or indoor plumbing or electricity. The year was 1935 – the height of the Depression. Across America millions of families struggled with the harsh economy. Rural Americans were particularly hard-hit, living through difficult conditions reminiscent of the pioneer days.

Life for farm families consisted of arduous work with little or no time for pleasure. Farm wives washed the family laundry by hand. Meals were cooked over wood fires. Indoor plumbing was a luxury. Foods, especially meats, had to be salted or canned to reduce spoilage. While doing their homework and chores, rural children were forced to endure the limited light of kerosene lanterns.

But on May 11, 1935, with the stroke of a pen, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt improved the lifestyles of rural Americans by establishing the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). By providing loans to finance the construction and operations of power-generating plants, transmission and distribution of lines, the REA literally brought rural America "out of darkness and into the light."

Photo showing 1935 Case tractor with corn shocker. L-R Wayne Strawser, Frank Ulmer, Don Strawser

Prior to 1935, only 10 percent of all United States' farms had electric power. Today, as a results of the far-reaching goals of this legislation, electricity is provided to nearly all of America's 2.4 million farms.



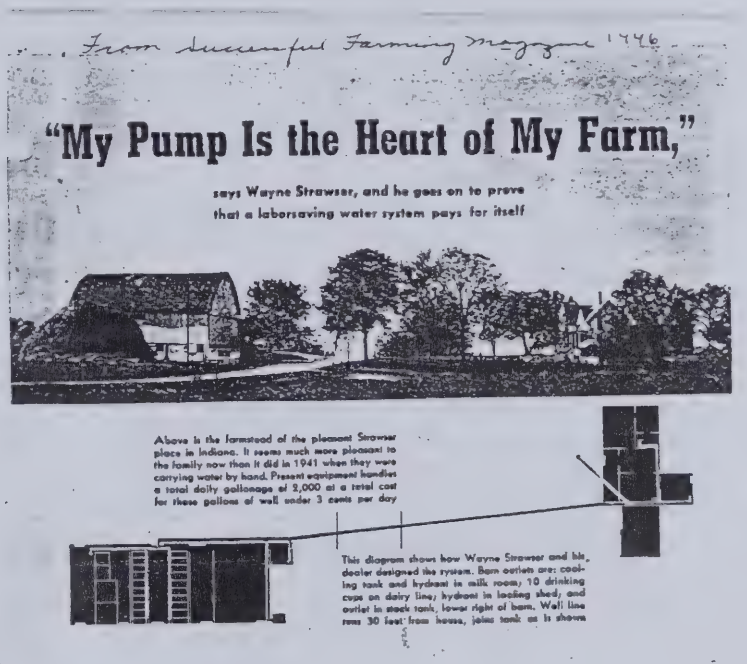
Circa 1942, L-R, Frank Ulmer, Wayne on tractor, Don, Jean, Gloria leveling/grading the barnyard

Such was the case on the Strawser farm before the President enacted his REA act. There was an outhouse for the restroom and at night everyone had their own chamber pot located beneath the bed. Still in use were coal oil lamps along with wood burning, pot-bellied stoves. A parlor for company use only. Afterwards, electricity comes in replacing the gas lights. Don recalls the new phone being installed in the farm house. He still remembers his phone number of two shorts and one long. Everyone knew everyone's business, being that all phones were on a "party line". The family also invested in a new radio as well as other modern conveniences such as a washing machine. They were one of the first families to own a television. Many families in the surrounding community would come to visit just to check out this modern marvel. Wayne would "spare no expense" to have the latest and greatest on his farm.

In 1946, Wayne Strawser's farm is recognized in *Successful Farming Magazine.* Wayne developed and installed an automative electric watering system four years earlier. Below is the article, retyped in its entirety.

1942 – Wayne Strawser examines his electric watering system.

"My Pump Is the Heart of My Farm," *Successful Farming Magazine, 1946 By A. E. Holden*



From Successful Farming Magazine 1946

"My Pump Is the Heart of My Farm,"

says Wayne Strawser, and he goes on to prove that a laborsaving water system pays for itself

Above is the farmstead of the pleasant Strawser place in Indiana. It seems much more pleasant to the family now than it did in 1941 when they were carrying water by hand. Present equipment handles a total daily gallonage of 2,000 at a total cost for these gallons of well under 3 cents per day

This diagram shows how Wayne Strawser and his dealer designed the system. Barn outlets are: cooling tank and hydrant in milk room; 10 drinking cups on dairy line; hydrant in loading shed; and outlet in stock tank, lower right of barn. Well line runs 30 feet from house, joins tank as it shows

Since installing an automatic electric water system four years ago, Wayne Strawser says that it has saved the family more hard work than any other piece of equipment on their farm.

And they have twice as many cows and more hogs and chickens than before. They can care for more with less work. Besides, water under pressure in the house and barn gives them more time to enjoy farm life, and more for profitable operations.

The Strawser farm contains 167 acres of gently rolling land near Pleasant Lake, in northeastern Indiana. While Wayne raises corn, oats, wheat, and hay, these crops are only incidental to the main source of income, namely, livestock. For example, he now has a dairy herd of 22 cows, and raises an average of 160 hogs each season, while his wife, Esther, keeps a flock of 150 laying hens, and raises around 400 chickens each year for the poultry market.

Before the pressure system was put in, there was a windmill which kept enough wind to operate it – but that system was inadequate. The owners could not deliver the water where they needed it, except by gravity to the barn, and to a small supply tank for the house.

To make matters worse, on hot, camp days when livestock required more water than at any other time, the mill would not operate at all. To pump the amount needed by hand was out of the questions, so Mr. Strawser used the farm tractor to pump the water. "That was very inconvenient," he said, because he'd have to stop cultivating corn or whatever else he happened to be doing in order to get the supply tanks filled for livestock and the house tank.

"Yes," Mrs. Strawser added significantly, "and nearly every farm wife knows that tons of water must be carried in and out during the year. What a thankless task it is to pump water and lug it in and out again for a family of eight!"

That was in 1941, and these facts, combined with the growing labor shortages and higher farm wages, lead to the decision to install the system. As Strawser explains it, the first step in his program was a good

well. That's smart business for any one of us. A good flow of water was found at 128 feet, near the house, which is located on a pleasant knoll. It is a 2-inch, driven well. Water is lifted by an electric pump jack, operating at a force pump. The latter builds up the pressure in the cold-water pressure tank and delivers it to the points of need. The pump and motor are located in a pit well below the frost line. The pit is covered by a heavy, reinforced-concrete slab with a lift-up door so a workman can get inside to grease the pump or service the well.

Mr. Strawser says a unit of ample capacity is the second step necessary to obtain the most nearly trouble-free water system. His outfit brings the 42-gallon, cold-water tank up to 40 pounds pressure with only 14 strokes of the force pump. It has delivered around 2,000 gallons of water daily since he installed it four years ago.

Here's the way the hookup works: Water is forced from the well into the pressure tank, which is located in the basement of the house some 30 feet away. Pressure carries water to the kitchen sink, to the bathrooms on the main floor, and to an extra toilet upstairs. Water under pressure also goes across the road in the opposite direction for a distance of 140 feet, to enter the barn from the west side. Another line is tapped to the milk-cooler room, some 30 feet to the north end of barn, from where the main line enters. Inside the milk room, Strawser built a concrete pit for a milk cooler, which holds 10 large-sized milk cans. Plenty of cold water in the pit cools the milk quickly at a negligible cost.

From the main line, as it enters the barn, water is forced thru ¾-inch pipe lines to two sets of stanchions. These run crosswise of the barn, with a feeding aisle between, so that cows face each other. There are five drinking cups in each section, spaced so that two cows use a single cup between them. This saves work; and cows give more milk and enjoy better health when they have plenty of water, Mr. Strawser says.

Besides these facilities inside the barn, there is a 600-gallon tank with outside opening, where cows can walk up and drink any time of night or day. There are three hydrants, one below in south end of the barn for cleaning, fire protection, and to supply fresh water for the hogs thru a hose connection. The second hydrant is in the milk house, used for rinsing utensils, flushing stable floors and aisles, as well as affording fire protection. The third hydrant is in the upper section of the barn, specifically for fire protection.

Wayne demonstrates how the cows trip the lever for drinking water.

The main water-supply lines are 1-inch galvanized pipe, a size which works effectively because it sets up less friction in the line, permitting free flow of water with less driving power.

Shutoff valves are provided for each connection, including hydrants. These are handy safeguards well worth the small cost. All outside, underground lines are four feet below surface to prevent freezing. "Do it right the first time, then you will have no do-over jobs later, or have costly delays," is Mr. Strawser's idea to insure a practical water system.

The cost of the additional new equipment purchased to modernize their old windmill system was negligible, compared with the benefits. For example, cost of the bathroom units, including the plumber's charges for installation, and the upstairs extra toilet, was $225. The pump jack and motor cost $35. The custom-made septic tank, 12-person capacity, cost $45. (Time has proved that it is an economy to use an oversized septic tank unit; then you avoid trouble later on.)

The total cost of the new Strawser equipment of $305 does not include the well driller's price for making the well nor the cost of pipe and stock tanks which were already in use before.

In explaining the many ways in which their water system saves money and helps earn more money, Mr. Strawser said if it hadn't been for electricity, eventually they'd have had to install a gasoline engine to pump the 2,000 gallons of water used on the farm every day. To pump it by hand would have required at least one man's full time. But, as Mr. Strawser explained, a gasoline engine in normal times would cost around $45. You'd need a pump jack and force pump anyway, and then it is not automatic.

Counting the time to start up the gasoline engine every time you wanted water, counting time fueling, greasing, and servicing, you'd use about an hour every day doing these jobs that electricity does for you automatically and almost without attention.

Additional Strawser appliances include a milking machine, which cuts milking time by more than a half and does it easier. They have an 8-foot electric refrigerator in the kitchen, a radio, an electric sweeper, a blower motor for the furnace, and small motors in the garage to operate the electric drills and grinders.

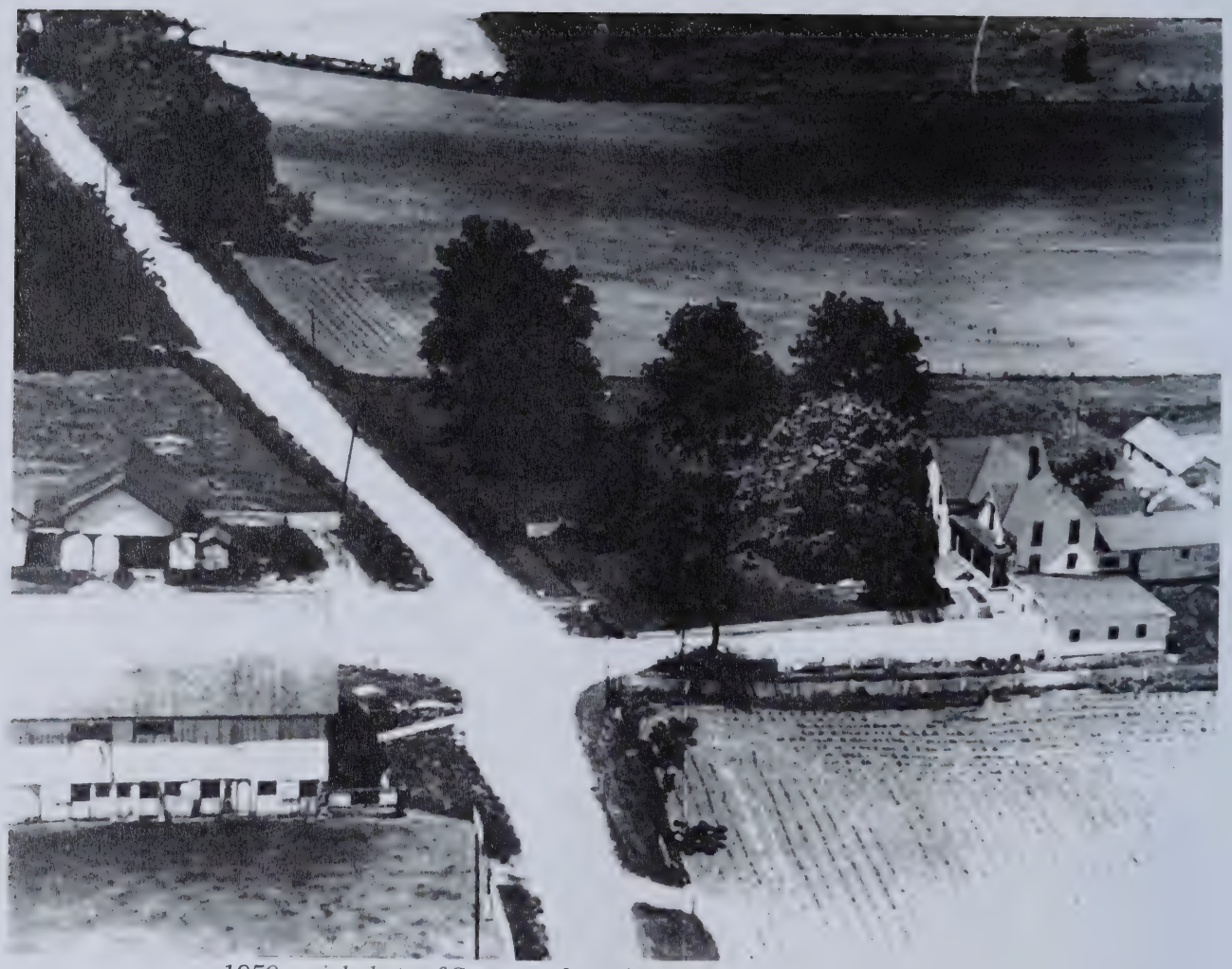
Besides, there are other small household appliances, such as a toaster and an electric plate, which Mrs. Strawser uses a lot during the summer instead of the wood burning range, for obvious reasons. Also in the bill is power for the water system, and lights for the house, barn, garage, and yard. They do not skimp on lights. Plenty of light is an economy, not an expense. The cost for power is low. Their total power bill averages only $9 a month. Mr. Strawser could not state the exact cost of power to operate the water system, but he believes it is not more than 75 cents a month. And for all of these combined, this is a lot of manpower for only $9.

Putting it another way, Mr. Strawser says that with an automatic water system and milking machine, he can have twice as many cows without hiring extra help, and do the work easier. Consequently, the income from milk and cream, and the dairy heard in general, is doubled, without increasing the labor costs for this phase of the operations. The higher earnings soon pay for the equipment. But Mrs. Strawser says there are other benefits besides money. It is "simply wonderful" to have plenty of water for the bath, toilets, sink, laundry, and other household uses, she declares.

The young folks, too, are happier, because drudgery is removed. They like to live on the farm, because they now have all the modern conveniences which urban folds enjoy, plus more liberties.

And so you have three great and good reasons why Wayne Strawser's pressure water system pays out!

In 1954, Don graduates from high school. He had spent the last ten years helping Wayne on the farm. The hard labor and little pay was not incentive enough, so Don declines the farm to seek other job opportunities in the city. Wayne decides to sell the property in 1956. This property that many generations starting with George Strawser had labored upon now went up for sale.



1950 aerial photo of Strawser farm that made Prairie Farmer Magazine

AUCTION SALE

As we have gone into business, we will sell at public auction, on our farm located 7 miles west of Pleasant Lake on Cable Line road to Salem Center school house, then south to first road to right then west first house, or north of Helmer on 327 to Cable Line road, then east of Salem Center school, then south to first T-road that goes west. Sale starts promptly at 10 o'clock fast time.

Saturday November 12 1956

31—HEAD DAIRY CATTLE—31

Holstein cow, 5 years old, will freshen in January; Holstein cow, 3 years old, will freshen in February; Holstein cow, 5 years old, will freshen in November; Guernsey cow, 8 years old, will freshen in November; Holstein cow, 5 years old, will freshen in November; Red cow, 5 years old, will freshen in December; Guernsey cow, 5 years old, with calf by side; Holstein cow, 3 years old, will freshen in April; Holstein cow, 3 years old, will freshen in March; Holstein cow, 3 years old, to freshen in May; Holstein cow, 3 years old, open; Holstein cow, 5 years old, freshen in December; Holstein cow, 5 years old, freshen in December; Holstein cow, 3 years old, freshen in January; Holstein cow, 3 years old, freshen in December; Holstein cow, 5 years old, freshen in November; Holstein cow, 5 years old, freshen in December; Holstein cow, 5 years old, freshen in December; Holstein cow, 3 years old, freshen in December; Holstein cow, 3 years old, freshen in December; Holstein cow, 3 years old, freshen in December.

10 head of Holstein heifers born in spring of 1955. All cattle T. B. and Bangs tested.

MACHINERY

Case C. C. tractor with cultivator, on rubber; Case S. C. tractor, 1953, with cultivators; also 14-in. mounted plow; Case two bottom, 14-in. tractor plow; two 4-section spring Case drags; Ideal tractor spreader; 8-ft. tandem Case disc harrow; 9 ft. Dunham cultipacker; 8-ft. land roller; 12 disc Van Brunt fertilizer grain drill; 5 bar Case side delivery rake; 52 Allis Chalmers combine; 52 Case automatic hay baler; New Ideal 7 ft. tractor mower; Case fertilizer corn planter, tractor type; new Case wagon on rubber with hay rack; rubber tire farm wagon with rack; buzz saw; stone boat; 2 wheel trailer; platform scales.

28 ft. grain elevator with drag; 21 in. power lawn mower; chicken waterers; chicken feeders; brooder stove; new hog waterer and feeder; 10 ft. hog trough; forks; shovels; post diggers; fence tools and many other articles not mentioned.

Dinner bell; 3 unit Delaval milking machine; double wash tanks; 4 can Stanley milk cooler; Delaval hot water heater.

SHOP TOOLS—Anvil; forge; drill press; air compressor.

FEED—400 bales of clover hay; 300 second cutting alfalfa hay; 1200 bales 1st cutting alfalfa hay; 800 bales of wheat straw.

FURNITURE

2 white metal cabinets; radio; wardrobe; 6 reed bottom chairs; 1-gal. pasteurizer; round table; ¾ cot; 7-piece dinette suite; player piano with bench; roll cabinet with several dozen rolls; coffee table; end tables; several platform rockers; studio couch; dressers; bed spring, also mattress; 2 twin beds with innerspring mattress; many dining chairs; 1-gal. small churn; bookcase; small rugs; dishes.

23-FT. MODERN STEWART 4-WHEEL HOUSE TRAILER, fully equipped, in very good condition, will be offered for sale.

Terms—Cash

MR. and MRS. WAYNE STRAWSER, Owners

The Story Continues on...

I often now remember my father telling stories to me and even now appreciate them as a much as I did then.

Having him tell me of fishing with Grandpa Sherman and having the steam train whistle blow as it goes through Helmer.

In going thru life we tend to always remember the bad things, not the good ones. And in doing so, we tend to push some of the most wonderful stories away.

In completing this book, it is our greatest hope that we have brought honor to our family and a sense of how, against all odds, our family's historic journey has brought us to where we are today.

With Love,

D. Scott Strawser and Cheryl Kirkpatrick

Acknowledgements

We'd like to thank the people who helped us along the way with this book. First and foremost are, Don Strawser for driving across the state for meetings and research and for his wealth of stories and input. We'd also like to thank for their contribution of pictures, stories, and history, Bobby and Rita Hayward, Gloria Stackhouse, Teddy Strawser, Diana Foederer and Thelma Smith.

Our gratitude also goes to Cathy Wilcher and Ashley Sharp, for their help in editing and formatting some of our photos.

We'd like to particularly thank Scott's wife, Ruth Strawser. She endlessly typed, edited our words, looked up information, deciphered our handwriting and formatted this book.

Scott's wife Ruth, Cheryl, and Don working on book

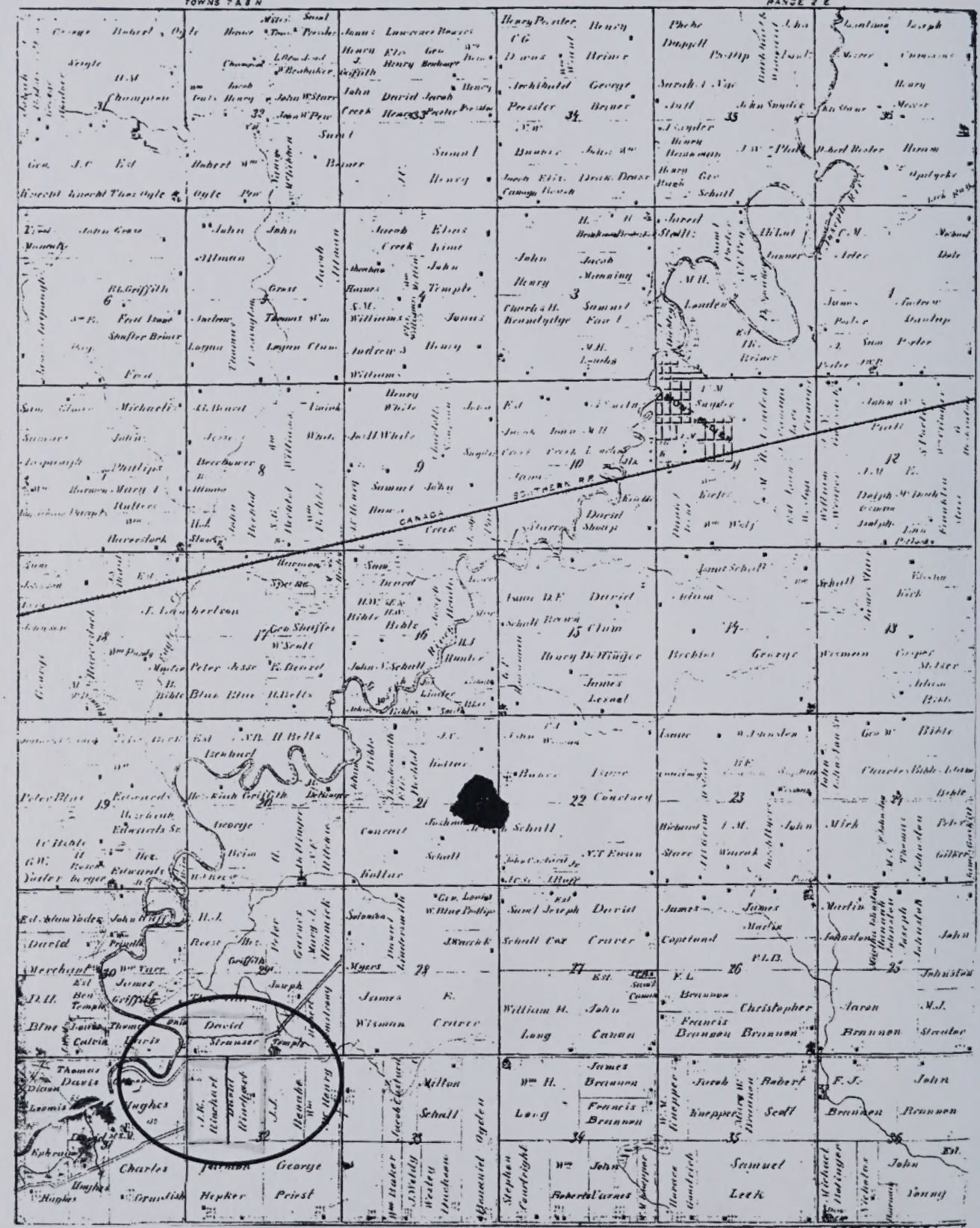
The Strawser Homestead in Bryan, Ohio "yesterday"

The Strawser Homestead in Bryan, Ohio "today"

MAP OF SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP

TOWNS 7 & 8 N

RANGE 2 E



George's RW party

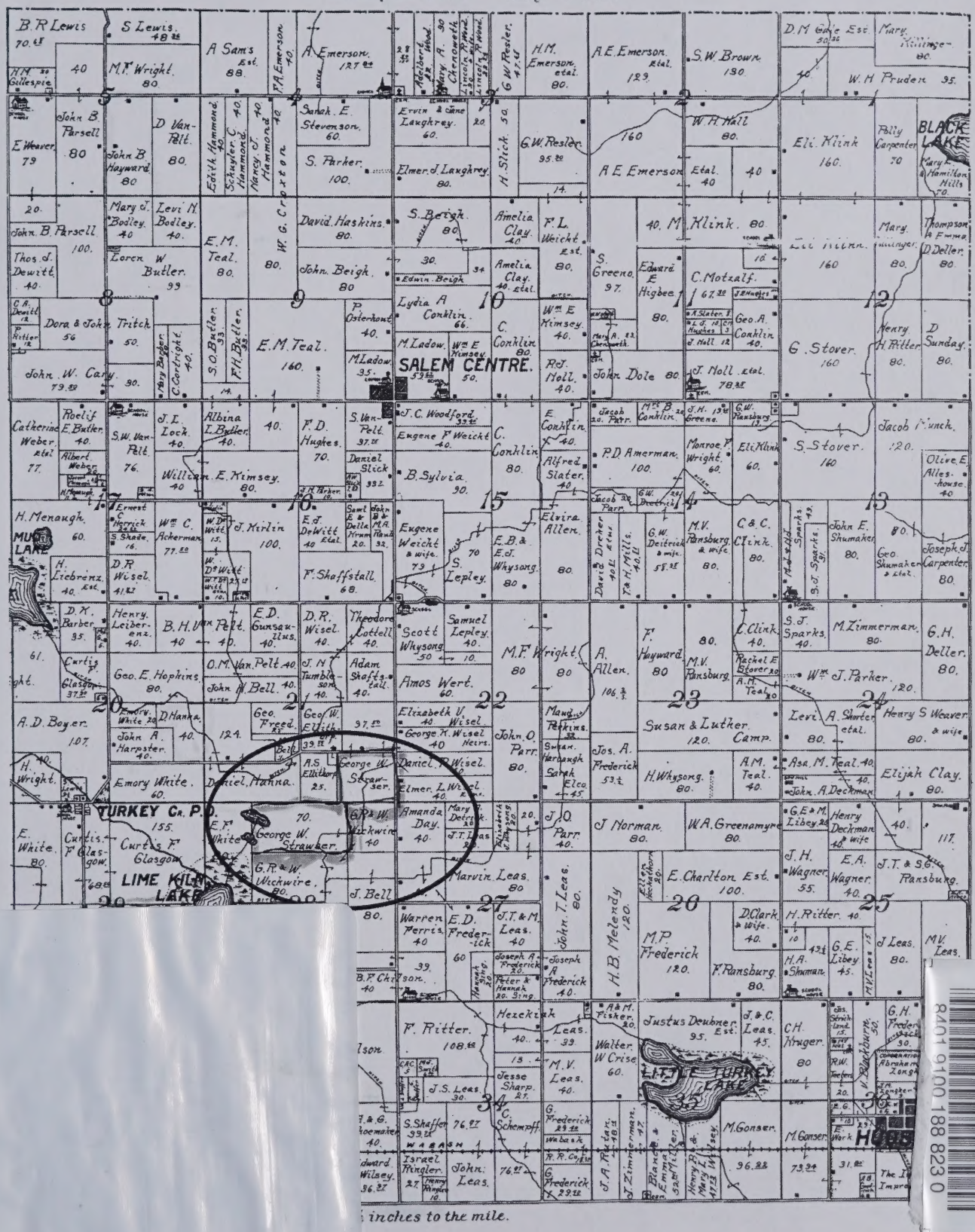
1898

MAP OF

SALEM

NUMBER NINE

Township 3 6 North Range 12 East



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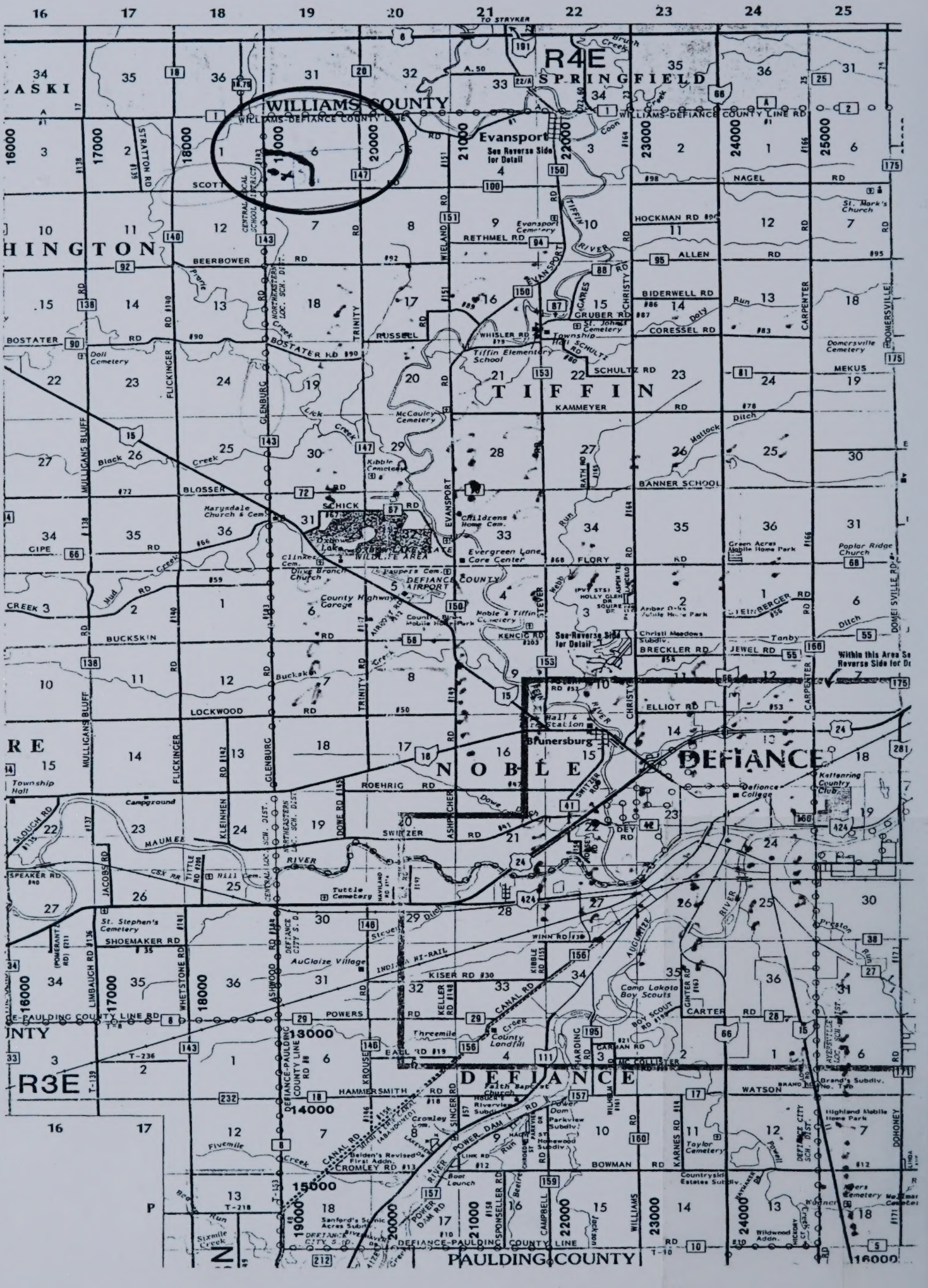
WILLIAMS COUNTY
WILLIAMS-DEFIANCE COUNTY LINE
Evansport
See Reverse Side for Detail
SPRINGFIELD
R4E
TIFFIN
NOBLE
DEFIANCE
Bryan
Bunnersburg
Defiance College
Kettering Country Club
DEFIANCE COUNTY AIRPORT
Tiffin Elementary School
Evergreen Lane Care Center
Childrens Home Cem.
Noble & Tiffin Cemetery
Tuttle Cemetery
McCauley Cemetery
Kibbie Cemetery
Harrysdale Church & Cem.
Olive Branch Church
Paupers Cem.
Clinker Cem.
Dix Lake
Township Hall
Campground
County Highway Garage
Fire Hall & Station
Christi Meadows Subdiv.
Amber Oaks Mobile Home Park
Green Acres Mobile Home Park
Poplar Ridge Church
Domersville Cemetery
St. Mark's Church
St. John's Cemetery
Township Hall
Orchard Lake
Mobile Home Park
Auglaize Village
Indiana Hi-Rail
Camp Lakota Boy Scouts
Boy Scout Rd
Threemile Creek County Landfill
Faith Baptist Church
Riverview Subdiv.
Parkview Subdiv.
Homewood Subdiv.
Taylor Cemetery
Countryside Estates Subdiv.
Highland Mobile Home Park
Brand's Subdiv. No. Two
Belden's Revised First Addn.
Sanford's Scenic Acres Subdiv.
Wildwood Addn.
Boat Launch
Power Dam Rd
Canal Rd
Defiance-Paulding County Line Rd
Williams-Defiance County Line Rd
Scott
Nagel Rd
Hockman Rd
Rethmel Rd
Allen Rd
Biderwell Rd
Coressel Rd
Gruber Rd
Whisler Rd
Schultz Rd
Kammeyer Rd
Banner School Rd
Flory Rd
Jewel Rd
Breckler Rd
Elliot Rd
Kencio Rd
Roehrig Rd
Switzer Rd
Maumee River
Auglaize River
Mud Creek
Black Creek
Lick Creek
Mattock Ditch
Doll Cemetery
Bostater Rd
Beerbower Rd
Russell Rd
Blosser Rd
Schick Rd
Gipe Rd
Buckskin Rd
Lockwood Rd
Shoemaker Rd
Kiser Rd
Powers Rd
Hammersmith Rd
Cromley Rd
Bowman Rd
Carter Rd
Watson Rd
Carman Rd
Eagle Rd
Winn Rd
Dehoney Rd
Carpenter Rd
Christy Rd
Evansport Rd
Tiffin River
Glenburg Rd
Trinity Rd
Flickinger Rd
Mulligans Bluff Rd
Ashwood Rd
Kleinhen Rd
Limbaugh Rd
Whetstone Rd
Krouse Rd
Singer Rd
Karnes Rd
Williams Rd
Campbell Rd
Sponseller Rd
Jacobs Rd
Speaker Rd
Slough Rd
Dohne Rd
Ginter Rd
Kibble Rd
Keller Rd
Harding Rd
Wilhelm Rd
Ayersville Rd
Domersville Rd
Defiance City S.D.
Northeastern Loc. Sch. Dist.
Central Local School District
Defiance-Paulding County Line Rd
Paulding County
R3E
T-236
T-218
T-10